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Hafa Adai!

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Saipan rallies for Ayuda Luta

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The International Coastal Cleanup, which usually draws widespread support in the CNMI, took a backseat last Saturday, with the Saipan community banding together to collect donations to aid the island of Rota that bore the brunt of Typhoon Mangkhut.

Under the direction of the Ayuda Luta Relief Drive, the Lady Diann Torres Foundation, the CNMI Women's Association, and the Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services, the community came together to fill container vans at the Ga-

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Personnel from the Department of Fire and Emergency Management Service collect cash donations from passing motorists along Beach Road and fronting the Garapan Fishing Base where the Ayuda Luta donation drive was held last Saturday. JON PEREZ

TO ASSIST RECOVERY EFFORTS AFTER MANKHUT

51 military personnel deployed on Tinian

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Fifty-one sailors and Marines were deployed on Tinian to assist the people of the island after Typhoon Mangkhut wreaked havoc in the Marianas last week.

Although relief efforts are concentrated on Rota, where Mangkhut did the most damage, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres assured that the CNMI government is also looking after Tinian where a total of 26 structures sustained major damage and 22 minor damage, with 300 people affected.

Torres said he's also in constant communication with Tinian Mayor Joey San Nicolas

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Gov. Ralph DLG Torres talks with local and military officials while inspecting Tinian last Friday. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Looking to expedite Rota recovery

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Local and federal partners are looking at all possible ways to help fast track the recovery of Rota after Typhoon Mangkhut barreled through the CNMI's southernmost island last week. Mangkhut's more than 139mph winds brought down power and telephone poles, and ripped tin roofs from houses while dumping 10 inches of rain.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Health and Human Servic-

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Florence and Mangkhut, different as water and wind

By SETH BORENSTEIN,
AP SCIENCE WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)— Nature expresses its fury in sundry ways. Two deadly storms—Hurricane Florence and Typhoon Mangkhut—roared ashore on the same day, half a world apart, but the way they spread devastation was as different as water and wind.

Storms in the western Pacific generally hit with much higher winds and the people who live in their way are often poorer and more vulnerable, Princeton University hurricane and climate scientist Gabriel Vecchi said Saturday. That will likely determine the

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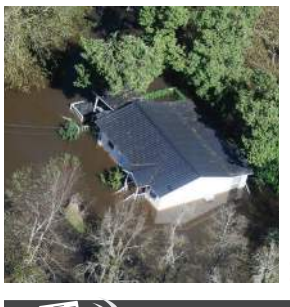
INSIDE



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North Carolina is bracing for the next stage of a still-unfolding disaster: flooding.
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ASIA
Typhoon Mangkhut barrels into China after lashing the Philippines.
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LIFE & STYLE
Ariana Grande posts a tribute to her ex-boyfriend Mac Miller after the hip-hop star's death.
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Local

Bail modified for man charged with rape

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has allowed a 38-year-old rape suspect to post 10 percent of his original bail amount so he could be temporarily released from jail.

Wen Long Zhao, who allegedly raped his former girlfriend last year, was allowed to post $5,000 of his original $50,000 bail that was set on Dec. 5, 2017.

However, the Superior Court denied Zhao's request to be released on his own recognizance and to be released on an unsecured bond.

Zhao's jury trial will start on Nov. 26, 2018, before Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley M. Bogdan.

Zhao was represented by Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig and assistant public defender Heather Zona.

Assistant attorney general Teri Tenorio represented the CNMI.

According to the *Saipan Tribune* archive, Zhao was arrested last Dec. 6, 2017 for sexual assault in the first degree and disturbing the peace.

Police officers who went to the house reportedly said the victim appeared frightened and had been crying. She was brought to the hospital and the physician who saw her concluded that the test was positive for penetration, police said.

The victim told police that she had ended her relationship with Zhao in November. The victim said she told Zhao that she would be moving out of their shared residence. That same day, after Zhao returned home from work, he and the victim shared a meal and after eating, the victim walked to her room to continue packing her belongings.

Zhao allegedly came from behind and raped her.

Torres now an honorary Lion

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Saipan Filipino-American Lions Club welcomed their newest honorary Lion last week, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

The club inducted its 37 new officers and members last Sept. 8 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, with Torres being one of the inductees. He was inducted by Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Glicerio Arago.

According to Torres, he appreciates the work that the club does for the CNMI and is excited to be a part of their community and humanitarian causes.

"They've done really good to the community with their humanitarian services I am very blessed and I look forward to working with them and doing community service with them," he said.

Torres said he was not aware that he was going to be inducted during the ceremony but it was an honor., having "attended a couple of meetings for the last three years."

Aside from being inducted as an honorary Lion, Torres also inducted the new officers of the Lions Club himself.

Torres encouraged the new officers to continue their efforts and keep working on their community service goals.

The new officers are Annamae Adaza, president; Socorro Huliganga, first vice president; Eden Mercado, second vice president; Mario Mayuga, secretary; Rowena Salvador, assistant secretary; Maricel Cascasan, treasurer; Arman Amog, auditor; Nenita Marquez, club membership chair; Ernie Molina, club service chair; Leonila Mendoza, club marketing community chair; Reynaldo Ortiz and Juanito Sarmiento, Lion tamers; Cherry Beth Casila, public relations officer; and Ana Mercado, tail twister.

The members of the board of directors are Victoria Camama, Vilma Emboltorio, Lynn Reyes, Jean Pumatong, Lucilita Sante, Sonia Ancheta, Art Ancheta, Manalo Rosales, and Jaime Del Peralta.

The new members that were inducted were Victoria Camama, Raul Dolotina, Julia Norry Fabian, Segundo Laceperos Jr., Teogenes Mendoza, Doris Mercado, Rhose Ann Joy Prado, Avelina Lyn Reyes, May Sante, Milagros Pellegrino, Adelina Gomez, Shirley Segundo, and Maria Lee Labadan.

The new members from other Lions Clubs that were also inducted are the following: Nelia Aguon and Rose Marie Robediso of the Saipan Centennial Lions Club; Juvy Taitano, Maria Mayolina Garcia, Karen Aglipay, Frincess Fleumeria Garcia, Elena Enriquez, Mardette Joy Pittman, Annabel Tudela, Heidi Posadas, Stephen Aglipay, Enrique Cecilia,and Joel Vallega of the Saipan Alliance Lions Club; Helen Pacurib, Martha Badelles, Dyna Cabrera, Agnes Camacho, Elena Lopez, Maria Estrella Pelisamen, Shirley Villocino and Christian Atalig of the Saipan Marianas Lions Club.

The newly inducted Filipino-American Lions Cub members pose for a photo after their induction ceremony last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Tourism Topics
A bi-weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.
The Marianas
| Saipan | Tinian | Rota |
HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

It's going to be a full weekend of cultural festivities at the 4th Annual International Festival of Cultures returns to The Marianas on Sept. 21-23, 2018, at Paseo de Marianas in Saipan.

Eleven culture groups living in The Marianas have signed up to participate in the Marianas Visitors Authority's annual signature event, which this is being condensed this year to a single Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

For the first time, the African community will join the event. Also confirmed to participate are The Marianas, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Marshall Is., Hawaii, Tonga/Fiji/Samoa, Bangladesh, Philippines, Korea, and Japan. Additional groups are invited to join the celebration of the cultural diversity of The Marianas.

The International Festival of Cultures will be held from 5-10 p.m. each night and will feature live entertainment, ethnic food, arts and crafts demonstrations, and more. Educational activities will be staged by some cultural groups beginning at 2 p.m.

For more information, visit The Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com or contact MVA Community Projects Coordinator Demalynn Pagarao at dpagarao@mymarianas.com or 670.664.3219 for more information.

www.mymarianas.com
The Marianas Calendar
Marianas Cultural Arts Gallery
Sept. 8-30, 2018
T Galleria
Chief Taga Festival
Oct. 2-7, 2018
Tinian
Tinian Cliff Fishing Derby
Oct. 19-21, 2018

2nd defendant in clandestine 'ice' lab case pleads guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of five men charged in connection with an alleged clandestine crystal methamphetamine or "ice" laboratory on Saipan pleaded guilty in federal court last Friday afternoon as part of a plea deal.

Eugene Blas Repeki Jr., also known as Uncle, pleaded guilty to an indictment charging him with conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine. Steven Pixley is the court-appointed counsel for Repeki.

The offense carries a maximum penalty of not more than a 20-year term of imprisonment, a fine not to exceed $1 million, and not less than a three-year term of supervised release.

Under the plea agreement, the U.S. government expects Repeki's guideline range to be 240 months imprisonment.

As part of the deal, the U.S. government will drop five other charges.

Repeki has yet to be sentenced. Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe appeared for the U.S. government at the hearing.

According to Repeki himself, between on or about July 1, 2017 and Feb. 25, 2018, Vincent David Cabrera Jr., Rick Urumelog Omar Jr., Sidney Capelle Kani, and others, agreed to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine.

Repeki said he knew of this agreement and that he joined, intending to help accomplish it.

Repeki said that he, along with others, including Cabrera, Omar, and Kani, obtained items to use to make methamphetamine, which they would smoke, as well as sell and/or give to other people.

Between July 1, 2017, and Feb. 25, 2018, members of the conspiracy, or person working at its behest, bought at least 150,000mg of pseudoephedrine from local pharmacies, which was eventually manufactured into at least 50 grams of actual methamphetamine.

Repeki said that on Feb. 1 and 8, 2018, he sold some of the "ice" to a confidential source of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Repeki's case is before U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

Last May, David Muna Sablan, who left behind two bags in Garapan that contained chemicals and items used in making "ice," pleaded guilty. He has yet to be sentenced.

Sablan reportedly threw a backpack and a bag that contained chemicals and items used in making "ice" during a police chase in Garapan last March 15. Four police officers complained of nausea and dizziness, and vomited after they opening the bags and inhaling the chemicals.

Military training at FDM today

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military is doing training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla until 11:59pm today, Sept. 17. It is recommended that the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. ***(PR)***

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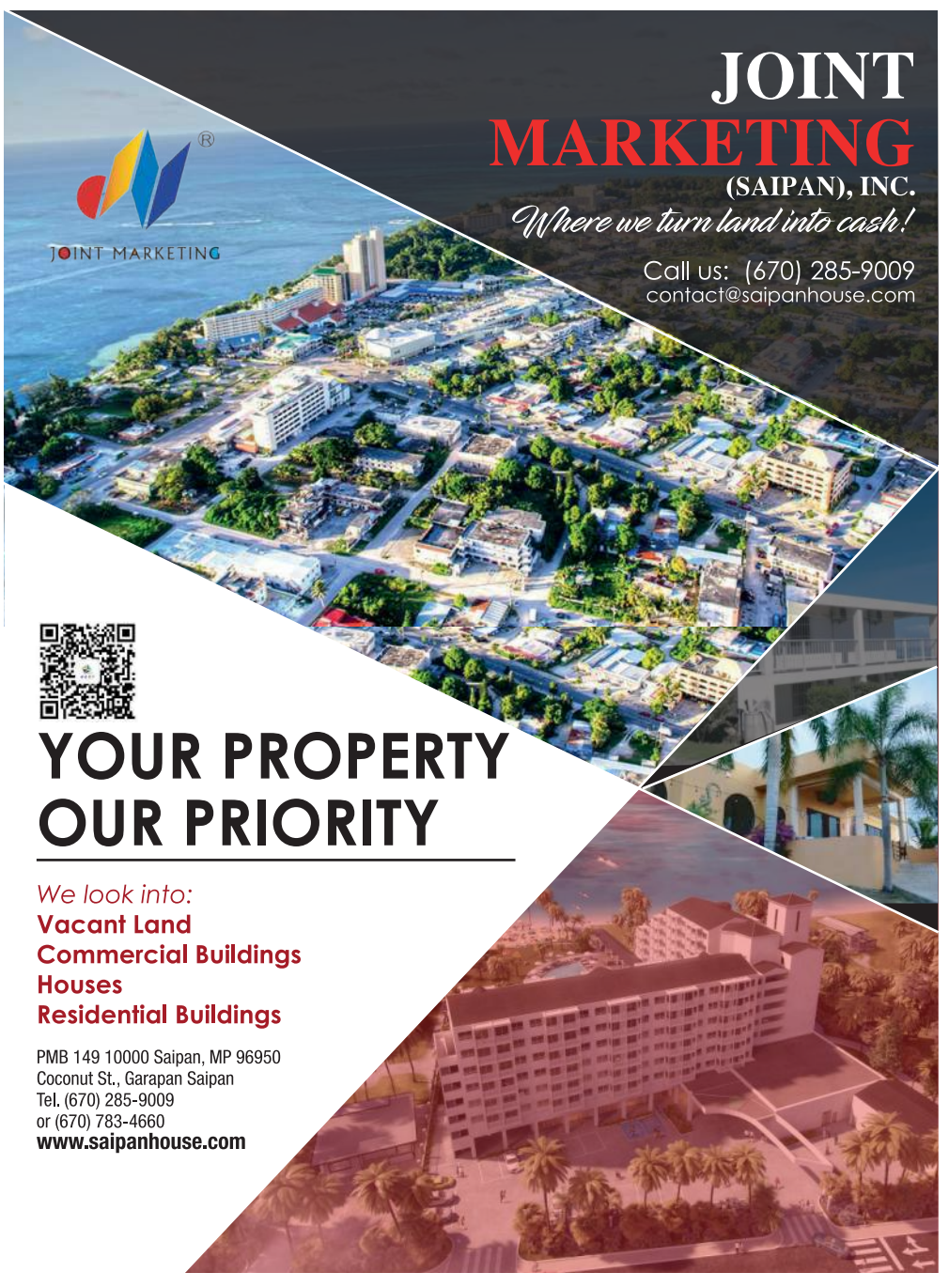

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FLORENCE

From Page 1

type of destruction.

Mangkhut made landfall Friday on the northeastern tip of Luzon island in the Philippines with top-of-the-scale Category 5 winds of 165 mph. Florence had weakened to a Category 1 storm with 90 mph winds by the time it arrived at North Carolina's coast.

Yet a day after landfall the faster-moving Mangkhut was back out over open water—weakened, but headed across the South China Sea toward China. Florence, meanwhile, was still plodding across South Carolina at a pace slower than a normal person walks. By Saturday morning, it had already dumped more than 30 inches (76 centimeters) of rain, a record for North Carolina.

Experts say Mangkhut may well end up being the deadlier storm. As of Saturday afternoon, the death count in the Philippines was a bit higher, although still far below that of other storms that have hit the disaster-prone island nation. And with Mangkhut now headed toward the densely populated southeast coast of China, it is likely to cause more death and destruction. But watery Florence's insured loses total will eventually be higher, Ernst Rauch, head of climate research for the world's largest reinsurer Munich Re, told German media.

That's because of a combination of geography, climatic conditions and human factors.

The western Pacific has two-and-a-half times more storms that reach the minimum hurricane strength of 74 mph. It has three-and-a-half times more storms that reach major hurricane strength of 111 mph, and three times more accumulated energy out of those hurricanes, an index that measures not just strength and number of storms but how long they last, according to more than 65 years of storm data .

SAIPAN

From Page 1

rapan Fishing Base with relief goods, while other volunteers collected cash donations from passing motorists, and entertainers made sure that everyone's spirits didn't flag.

According to the Ayuda Luta Relief Drive chair John Concepcion, about three containers were filled with relief goods last Saturday.

A boot drive was also held as part of the Ayuda Luta Relief Drive that was spearheaded by the Lady Diann Torres Foundation in conjunction with DFEMS.

Firefighters and volunteers stood by the side of the Garapan Fishing Base to collect monetary donations from motorists.

Various businesses across Saipan also gathered last Saturday to donate canned goods, water pallets, toiletries, and clothing.

The Office of the Governor was also in full force, helping collect, pack, and load all the donations.

In a memo sent out from the Office of the Governor to all government departments, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that it is a must that Saipan band together to aid its sister island.

"Typhoon Mangkhut left the people of Rota in distress, and I have activated all necessary government resources and have coordinated with [the Federal Emergency Management gency], our federal and military partners, and the American Red Cross to assist our brothers and sisters in Rota during their time of great need," stated the memo.

"I am directing all department and activity heads to assist in the coordination of this important relief effort. Please send your designated representatives to assist in the relief drive," it added.

The relief drive lasted from 7am to 3pm.

Small business owners join relief drive

Several Chinese small business owners banded together and did their share to help the people of Rota.

Liang Ming Qiang, the owner of Ming Li Market, led the relief drive efforts and he asked fellow small business owners to chip in. He said they could get in touch with Rep. Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan) who then informed House majority leader Rep. Glenn Maratita (R-Rota) about the donation.

"We decided to do our share for the people of Rota. We are small business owners but we came together, we decided to give the basic needs of those affected like rice, water, and canned goods," said Liang.

The group collected almost $2,000 worth of goods with 60 sacks of rice, eight boxes of assorted canned goods, 200 cases of drinking water, 20 boxes of tea, and clothes.

Yu Bo tire shop, Guangzhou Restaurant, Hua Tai Construction, Amber Saipan, New Field Saipan Corp., were the other small businesses that helped.

Maratita thanked the small business owners for their contribution. "This is for a humanitarian purpose that would help the people of Rota. There are still donations coming in and thank you to all the businesses that are donating."

The goods would either be sent through the Governor's Office or the Rota Legislative Delegation. The container is expected to arrive in Rota anytime this week.

Guerrero said Liang reached out to him, asking how could they help the people of Rota. "So, I told him we're doing a relief drive and whatever they can donate would be much appreciated. …Whatever they give would be a huge thing to the people of Rota."

He added that Liang's group is not yet done and would again come up with additional donations. "This would make a strong impact on the ability of our people to move forward. In our community, we work as a family to see that everyone is taken care of. They are here not only to invest, but to also do their part as a member of our community." ***(With Jon Perez)***

RECOVERY

From Page 1

es, Energy, Agriculture, and the Department of Defense are some of the agencies and departments by the U.S. federal government that are assisting local authorities in Rota's recovery efforts.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, in a press conference with House Ways and Means Committee chair Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) last Friday, said that despite Saipan and Tinian also suffering some damage, it wasn't as significant as Rota.

The island was without power and water for only a few days, with Commonwealth Utilities Corp. personnel, who were sent to Rota before Mangkhut's arrival, fixing the damage after the storm left.

Torres said that looking for construction materials that would be used to rebuild the houses and other structures brought down by Mangkhut is the next thing that needs to be done. "We went over at different hardware [stores] and looked at their capacity to provide materials and, of course, we looked at their prices."

"We acknowledge that Rota's prices is a lot more expensive than we have here, let alone the availability of materials. So, all that will be put into consideration in making our report to President [Trump]," added Torres, who sent a letter to the White House to ask Trump to declare the CNMI under a state of emergency.

He said that they are looking to transport some construction materials to Rota. But doing this also poses a challenge.

"It is easier to do that [transporting materials to Rota] for government buildings, but once you get into private costs, that's something that we need to work the logistics out. With FEMA assisting the homes, there are different programs for that," said Torres.

"You've seen it through our [Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts] where FEMA helped out on the labor and the private home [owners] provided the materials. That's a partnership that we're also looking at."

The weather head, a weatherproof device used as an entry point of power or telephone wires into homes or buildings, is another issue, according to Torres. He said they are expected to order more to replace the ones damaged during the typhoon.

"Whatever the plans we have for Rota, we're going to extend that to Saipan and Tinian. The damage is not as critical like Rota. For example, the weather head. If Saipan and Tinian need 50, and Rota 100, we're going to go order that in bulk. Our request is for the entire CNMI, of course but we're going to separate the needs for Rota because they were hit the hardest and had zero power after the typhoon."

Final assessment

Torres said that authorities are still assessing the extent of the damage wrought by Typhoon Mangkhut on properties and agriculture on Rota. "We're still doing our assessment on Rota but, based on preliminary reports, there are about 50 power poles that were knocked down. We still have to count the poles that have cracks and were displaced, and these have to also be changed. …Even if it's crooked or cracked, we're going to replace them, hopefully with concrete. I know it's more expensive but we want to make sure the community is resilient and storm-ready."

He added that Rota's crops, especially the *camote*, is the next thing that's being assessed to determine how much the farmers lost to the typhoon. "We're getting into that. I spoke to USDA [Farm Service Agency Country executive director for Guam and CNMI] Tom Camacho [last week] and he's getting his team to come down to Rota."

"Again, that's [agriculture], a separate section of FEMA but, of course, that has its own requirement. They will be going out talking to the farmers, who would need proper documentation in order to maximize our requests to FEMA," said Torres, who added that USDA officials were expected to arrive last weekend to help Rota's farmers and ranchers.

Basic goods

For now, Rota has enough supply of canned goods, ready-to-cook food, and other basic needs for everyday living. "Hopefully that won't be an issue in the coming weeks and months."

Last Saturday, the Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services held the Ayuda Luta relief fund drive at the Garapan Fishing Base where two containers were filled immediately with donations of canned goods, bottled water, clothes, and other hygiene products from the Saipan community.

"One case of water or one sack of rice would go a long way to individuals out there [on Rota]. Any assistance from off-island would go a long way. We do really need any contribution and a little help goes a long way to our brothers and sisters in need on Rota."

Torres said it's a bit hard to get basic commodities and other resources shipped to Rota. "Unlike for us here, Saipan and Tinian, we can help each other easily," he said.

MILITARY

From Page 1

for updates. "We've got the report the other day [Wednesday], that's the reason why I asked [Federal Emergency Management Agency] coordinator Willie Nunn to fly from Rota to Tinian."

Torres and other Tinian officials met with Nunn, Joint Region Marianas commander Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, and Task Force West commander Rear Adm. Brad Cooper, who is also the Wasp Expeditionary Strike Group commander last Friday when they visited the island.

Torres, together with other Tinian municipal officials, personally thanked the representatives of the U.S. federal government for their assistance before, during, and after the storm.

"Thank you for all their services and in going around Tinian based on the request that we received. Thank you for all the recovery efforts that you guys made. I think not just the people of CNMI have realized that this cooperation and collaboration with each other is a lot better and things are moving smoothly. We can't thank all of you guys enough." "[Based on] the preliminary view of the [structural] damage, there are about 26 major and 22 minor with 300 people affected one way or another. That's the local report. …We may have missed one or two or even more. That's the same thing with Rota."

San Nicolas thanked the Marines for the help they provided the people of Tinian.

"I want to join the governor in expressing our thanks. Tinian benefited immensely; with those 51 members of Valiant Shield plus the heavy equipment, I said to one of the Marines that you did the work of 200 people. I'm proud to announce…that the majority of the work was done on Day 1."

Wasp ESG ships, from amphibious assault and dock landing ship USS *Ashland*, provided logistic support by moving its personnel and other equipment between the islands of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam.

The military personnel were part of the U.S. forces that were preparing to participate in the Valiant Shield exercise.

Chatfield said that various sectors unite during times of disasters and crises. "I want to thank our local and federal government partners, DoD service members and government employees for their dedication and efforts here in the CNMI to restore our island community. It is critical moments like these when our partnership is strongest."

Nunn lauded the combined efforts of all agencies involved. "I'm really grateful to hear about the immediate response and the partnership that was developing even before a presidential declaration had come. That partnership you have and the leadership you have in place only enhances what I do."

Cooper said members of the Wasp ESG made a positive impact on the lives of the people of Tinian. "Sailors and Marines from the Wasp [ESG] should take great pride in the work they did for the great Americans living in the CNMI. The Navy-Marine Corps team arrived early, fully trained and made a positive impact on the lives of our fellow citizens."

Wasp ESG's aircraft—MV-22B Osprey, CH-53E Super Stallion—with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 262 (Rein.), and MH-60S Seahawk helicopters with Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 helped in transporting 550 personnel and the delivery of more than 24,000 lbs of cargo to support the FEMA-led aid efforts.

USS *Ronald Reagan* Carrier Strike Group also supported relief efforts by flying 11 sorties covering a combined distance of more than 2,500 miles. In addition, USS *Antietam* took position to act as a floating refueling point to aid helicopters that were transporting people, supplies and equipment between islands.

Forces in Joint Region Marianas, including the Navy Mobile Construction Battalion One, Detachment Guam, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam and the "Island Knights" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 will continue supporting FEMA and local agencies in the region as recovery efforts continue.

Zoning board OKs conditional permit for Sinopan project

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI Zoning Board has approved American Sinopan LLC's request to amend their conditional use permit for the construction of $12-million villas and a clubhouse on Capital Hill.

The decision reflected the stance of those who attended the Zoning board's meeting at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Thursday night and expressed support for the project.

After hearing the public comments, Zoning board treasurer Mariano Taitano moved for its approval. Board chair Diego C. Blanco and other members—Joe Ayuyu Jr. and Patrick Reyes—approved the request.

American Sinopan legal counsel Matthew Gregory and chief executive officer Ken Lin did a PowerPoint presentation about the project.

Former lawmaker Juan Iguel Tenorio described the project as "beautiful" and cited Sinopan's willingness to contribute to improve the water supply in the area and pave the road going there— which he said will substantially benefit residents.

Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan) also urged the board to approve American Sinopan's conditional permit to allow the project to proceed.

In response to a concern about the villas' height, Guerrero said if this was his property and he was trying to build a house and his neighbor complains about his project blocking the sunset, it's not his problem.

"Why don't you build your house bigger than me so you can see the sunset? Don't tell me how to build my house on my own private property," the lawmaker said.

Guerrero said American Sinopan is offering free money to fix the road and the waterline. "Let us not be dependent on the government. The government is trying to address everybody's problem. Here's a developer who's trying to help the government," he pointed out.

If this developer abandons the project, people would wait years and years before the road is fixed and have the residents get a 24-hour water supply, Guerrero said.

Right now, he said, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. records state that there is 24-water supply in that area. However, there still a lot of illegal tapping of water, he added.

Guerrero said this is a $31-million-plus project, which is an added revenue to the CNMI government.

He said he never goes there at night because there is no street light. "It's purely dark out there," Guerrero said.

Lin said they are happy with the public's support of what they are doing.

"Our vision is we try to do something different," Lin said, noting that in their last presentation with the Zoning board, they talked about their 1,200-hotel room in Tanapag.

Now, Lin said, with their villas, they want to actually create homes for the high-end residents. He said to attract quality tourists to come to the island, there should be higher level amenities to offer to them—topnotch villas that are high-end in style.

Gregory said they are pleased with the Zoning board's approval of the conditional use and the concerns raised—road and water—are similar to American Sinopan's concerns. He said they need access to water and a road.

"The interests of the homeowners and [American] Sinopan are the same, so there is not much of a conflict," he said.

Dr. Tony Stearns, a resident of Wireless Ridge, earlier expressed concerns about the project's height and scale but, after the meeting, he said residents think it is a great project and that Sinopan has already done a lot of good renovations on the former Magellan Hotel, which was turning into an eyesore.

"We are enthusiastic about their contribution to fix the road and the power situation," Stearns said.

He said the power has been upgraded.

"We are just concerned that the height of the project and the scale of the project doesn't fit with the nature of the neighborhood as we would like," he said.

Although American Sinopan did not really address their concern, Stearns said the company listened to them. "They have been good to work with," he added.

The project, called Capitol Hill Residences, is located across their Capitol Hill Resort, which is the renovated former Magellan Hotel.

Lin said the $31-million project is separate from the $350,000 renovation of the former Magellan Hotel.

He said the renovated Magellan Hotel used to be called Heaven II Hotel, and now it is called Capitol Hill Resort.

The CEO said the amenities of Capitol Hill Residences include KTV rooms and infinity pools.

Lin said the clubhouse will serve both the Capitol Hill Resort and the Capitol Hill Residences.

Last June, American Sinopan held a small groundbreaking for the construction of its project on Saipan, the Saipan Garden Resort in Tanapag.

Saipan Garden Resort will have 1,184 guestrooms, 170 apartments, and 108 staff apartments. The structure will be compound-like, with 14 six-story buildings, three swimming pools, and six restaurants.

American Sinopan's mother company, SinoPan, is based in Shanghai, China.

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Prior Experience:
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- Director of Corneal Transplant and Refractive Surgery St. Luke's Cataract and Laser Institute, Florida
- Board of Directors, American Board of Eye Surgery
- President, Cataract Teaching Foundation
- Instructor, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery

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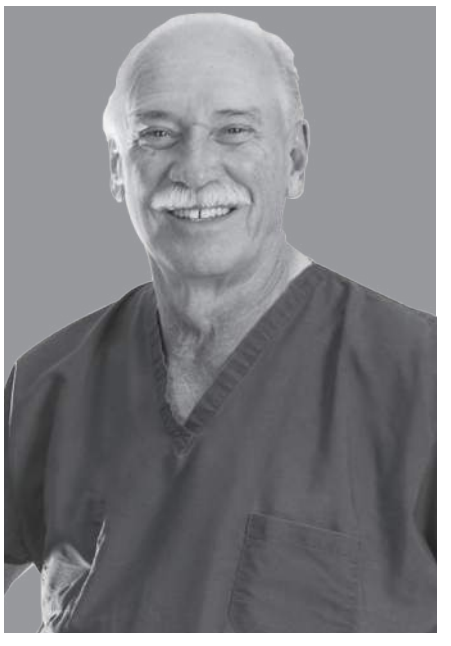

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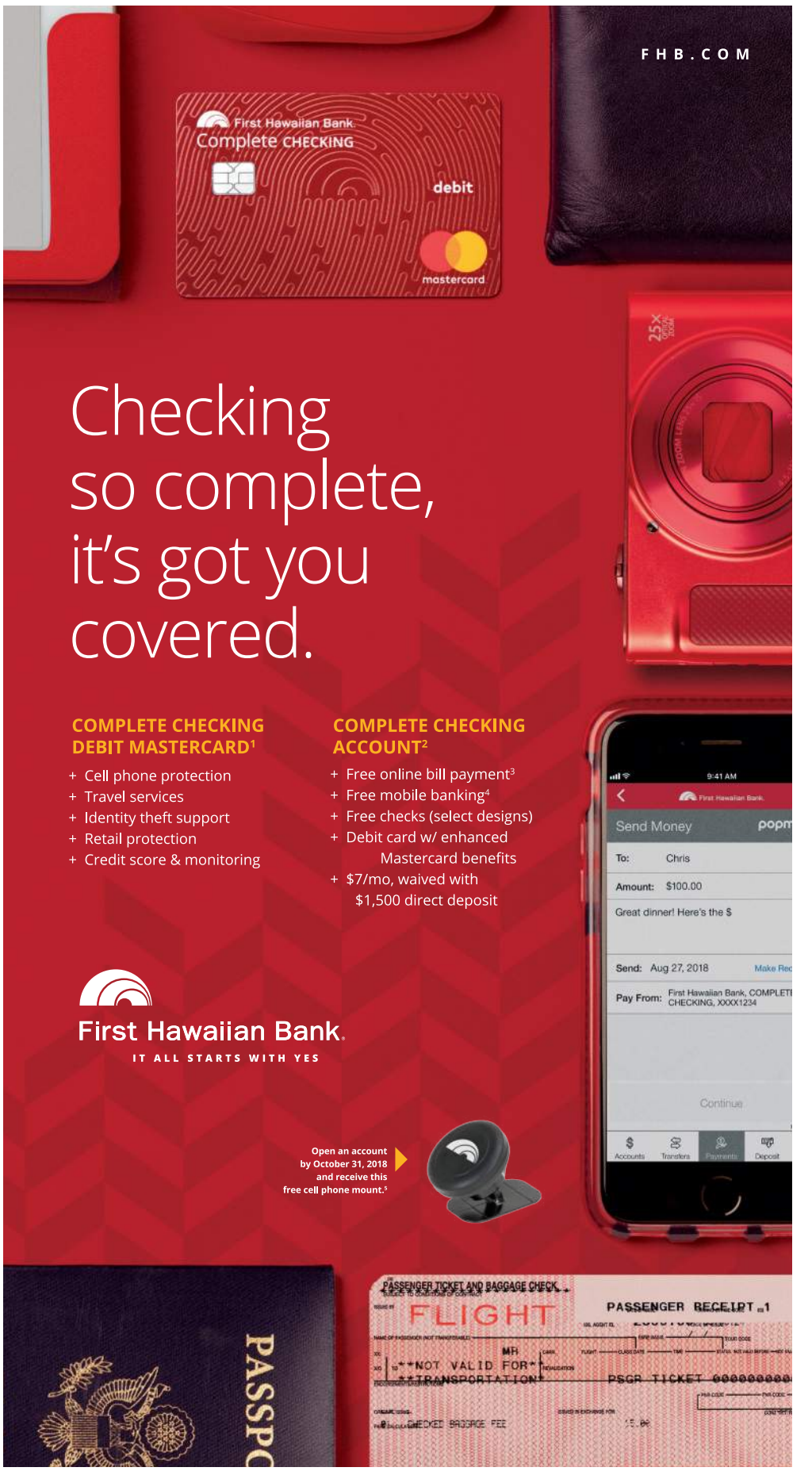

1 The benefits mentioned above are only offered on or with a Complete Checking Debit Mastercard ("Debit Card"), which you can only have if you open a Complete Checking Account. Additional restrictions apply. The benefits include cell phone or other types of insurance that require use of the Debit Card. Registration at www.fhb.com/completedebit is required for certain benefits (credit score, credit monitoring & activity alerts, additional ID monitoring and ID theft - family coverage, etc.). First Hawaiian Bank and Mastercard reserve the right to cancel or change the benefits at any time without prior notice. If your Complete Checking Account and/or Debit Card is canceled or closed for any reason, access to the benefits may be terminated at any time without notice. Please review your Guide to Benefits at www.fhb.com/completedebit for detailed information.
2 Please refer to the Deposit Account Rules and Regulations, fee schedule and any other agreements you received when you opened your Complete Checking Account for additional details about your checking accounts. The minimum deposit to open an account is $100.00 (or just $5.00 with direct deposit).
3 Does not apply to access through Quicken® or QuickBooks®. FHB access through Quicken® or QuickBooks® is $9.95 per month. Optional Online Banking Features may incur additional fees. See Terms & Conditions of the FHB Online Services for more details.
4 You must be enrolled in FHB Online and have a mobile device with internet to use FHB Mobile Banking. Device must have a rear-facing camera with autofocus to use Mobile Deposit. See FAQs in the "Mobile Deposit" section of fhb.com/mobile for Mobile Deposit eligibility requirements. Checks deposited via Mobile Deposit are treated as deposits by mail for funds availability purposes. See Terms and Conditions of FHB Online services for full details. Text banking not available in Guam or CNMI.
5 Receive a free cell phone mount when you open or convert to a Complete Checking Account. Business and corporate accounts do not qualify for this offer. Limit one free cell phone mount per customer or account. This offer cannot be combined with any other promotional offer. Offer expires October 31, 2018, or when supplies are exhausted.

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Additional infra eyed for Tinian airport

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Tinian International Airport's needs to have additional infrastructure so it could provide service to other aircraft and service flights that would improve the island's economy came to light during a recent visit by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

The U.S. Department of Defense has already chosen Tinian for the U.S. Air Forces' divert airfield projects, but Zinke, a former Navy SEAL, said the airport's commercial operations would be part of the improvements planned for the Tinian hub.

"We talked about seawalls, piers, hotels, monuments. Really a full breadth on airports and other issues. It is important for the Navy and U.S. [military] to have a place to land, especially for the tankers," he said.

Zinke inspected Tinian last Sept. 6 when he made a brief visit in the Marianas that also included stops on Saipan and in Guam. His visit came after DoD Deputy Assistant Secretary for Basing Allison Sands visited Tinian last month.

"For the commercial airport, we're looking at what it takes to improve it. There's some infrastructure that's required and we've looked very hard into that. Because if you're going to build hotels and have a service industry, you would not only need ships at the port but you also need to have an airport that would service a moderate degree of aircraft," added Zinke.

He said that would bring the Tinian airport at par to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. "We looked at what would it take to form that into a commercial hub for planes. Whether they are coming from Saipan or be able to go from there [Tinian]."

Zinke added that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has also looked into Tinian's seawall issues, "about seawalls and piers and to see how we can address that."

He said he could be the first Interior secretary to visit Saipan and his stop is a testament to the friendship he and Torres have cultivated. "This wasn't our first conversation. We've been friends since I became a member of [President Trump's] Cabinet and…the governor and I had multiple discussions, re-emphasizing the friendship and working together. It is the partnership. You have a great governor who is at the frontline of really watching the economy and is very innovative.

A total of $50.7 million is expected to come in for the divert airfield project after Trump signed H.R. 5515 or the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 last month.

Forty-six million dollars will fund the construction of a cargo pad and taxiway extension while the remaining money, $4.7 million, will be used in building a maintenance support facility at the northern portion of the Tinian International Airport.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2375 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP18-GOV-143

Generator System Supply and Installation – Department of Finance

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors to supply and install a generator for the Department of Finance, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

The project package will be available beginning September 10, 2018 at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A pre-proposal meeting will be held at the project site adjacent to the Division of Finance and Accounting at 10:00 a.m. on September 14, 2018.

Questions about this request for proposal shall be addressed to the Capital Improvement Office attn.: Nerissa Benavente, in writing via e-mail: nerissa.cip@gmail.com or facsimile (670) 664-2408 **no later than 4:30 p.m., ChST, September 20, 2018.**

The total proposal length shall not exceed 15 pages in length. A contractor that submits a proposal as a prime contractor cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, a company may be included in multiple proposals by different contractors.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1.	Qualifications and experience on similar projects	30%
2.	Work load and resources to accomplish work	10%
3.	Project Approach & Schedule	10%
4.	Cost	50%
	TOTAL:	**100%**

Performance time for completion of this project is 120 calendar days upon issuance of notice to proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 120 calendar days, the contract price and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top 3 ranked contractors. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified contractor to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposals must be sealed and marked RFP18-GOV-143 Generator System Supply and Installation – Department of Finance. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, September 28, 2018. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent to propose. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, September 28, 2018 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net.

For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, September 28, 2018 and mailed to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply at P.O. Box 510008 CK, Saipan MP, 96950 and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than the close of business on October 4, 2018. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

BREACH OF ETHICAL STANDARDS

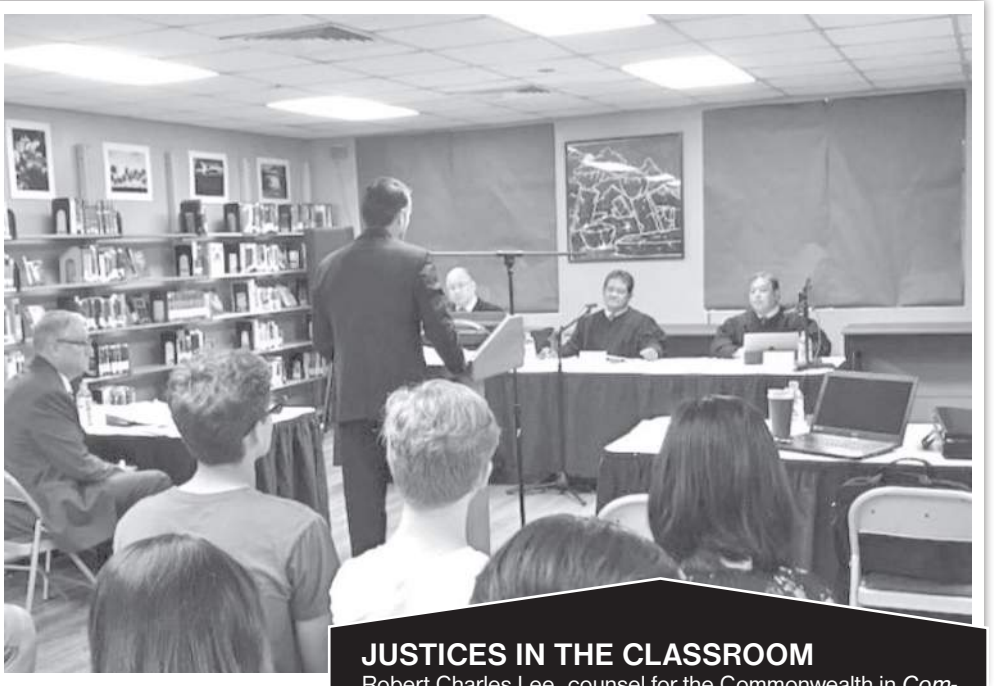
(To be part of Solicitation for quotes, ITBs and RFPs)

- ***Gratuities.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(a).
- ***Kickbacks.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of subcontractor or order. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(b).
- ***Contingent Fees.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-730.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Victor B. Hocog
Acting Governor

Herman S. Sablan
Director of Procurement and Supply



JUSTICES IN THE CLASSROOM
Robert Charles Lee, counsel for the Commonwealth in *Commonwealth v. Sonny Babauta*, presents oral argument to the CNMI Supreme Court justices. CNMI Supreme Court third quarter oral argument hearings kicked off at the Marianas High School library on Sept. 5, 2018. Here, Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro is flanked by Associate Justices John A. Manglona and Perry B. Inos. A select number of Supreme Court hearings are held at various school locations in the Commonwealth to promote outreach to the community. This outreach is part of the NMI Judiciary's Justices & Judges in the Classroom program, which aims to educate the CNMI's youth on the judicial system and its functions. If you are interested in bringing our courtroom into your classroom, or for further information, contact Divana DelaCruz at divana.delacruz@justice.gov.mp. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Of The Northern Mariana Islands
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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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Alice Agulto – albagulto.dol@gmail.com
Manases Iguel – manasesiguel@gmail.com
James Ulloa – julloalabor@gmail.com
Vivian Fleming – dolvfleming@gmail.com
Dennis Cabrera – denmaicabrera@gmail.com
Eugene Tebuteb – etebuteb.dol@gmail.com

Zoning sets eighth public outreach

The Zoning Office will be conducting its 8th Annual Public Outreach and Education Awareness meetings around the island with community members, businesses, developers, property-owners, or any interested members of the public.

The first meeting will be held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center tomorrow, Sept. 18, at 5:30pm. These meetings serve to disseminate information to the public about proposed amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 and the Official Zoning maps, as well as to engage them in discussions to assist the Zoning board's next update of the island's Zoning law.

On Sept. 20, the meeting will be at the Dandan Middle School cafeteria, starting at 5:30pm. On Sept. 25, it will be at the GTC Elementary School cafeteria in San Roque, at 5:30pm. Then on Sept. 27, it will be at the Kagman High School cafeteria, at 5:30pm.

For more information, call the Zoning Office at 234-9661 or visit the office on the second floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. ***(PR)***

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40 take oath as new citizens in naturalization ceremony

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.coms
REPORTER

Assistant U.S. attorney James J. Benedetto serves as the guest speaker during the naturalization ceremony for the 40 new U.S. citizens Friday at the American Memorial Park Visitor's Center Theater Park in Garapan.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Federal prosecutor James Benedetto served as a guest speaker at a naturalization ceremony for 40 new U.S. citizens last Friday—his last day with the U.S. Attorney's Office.

"I am the proud son of immigrants," said Benedetto, who disclosed that his grandparents came to America from Southern Italy in the early 20th century.

"As we have all heard many times, America is a nation of immigrants," Benedetto said, noting that even the ancestors of native Americans migrated from Asia some 20,000 years ago across the Bering Strait during the last ice age and established enduring civilizations, cultures, and traditions from Alaska to South America.

More recently, he said, starting in the 17th century and up to the present day, America welcomed immigrants from Holland, England, France, Germany, Ireland, China, Italy, the Philippines, and many other countries.

In his own case, Benedetto said his grandparents went to the United States to seek economic opportunity and managed to raise their children during the Great Depression.

Even more recently, Benedetto said, residents of the CNMI became U.S. citizens in 1986, by virtue of the Covenant, and are now proud members of the American family.

Paraphrasing former President Barrack Obama, Benedetto said: "It is our generation's task to keep building an America where no matter who we are or what we look like, who we love or what we believe, we can make of our lives what we will," he said.

"You will not and should not forget your history and your past. That adds to the richness of American life. But you are now Americans. You've got obligations as citizens. And I'm absolutely confident that you will meet them," he told the new citizens.

Benedetto is leaving the CNMI to work with the U.S. Department of Justice's ethics office in Washington, D.C.

He first came to Saipan in June 1999 to work as a prosecutor with the Office of the Attorney General Criminal Division. He became a federal ombudsman then moved to U.S. Attorney's Office in 2008 as a prosecutor.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona administered the oath for the 40 new citizens, who are mostly from the Philippines. The rest hail from Nepal, Vietnam, Bangladesh, China, Ghana, Russia, and Thailand.

Manglona said the oldest is a 77-year-old from the Philippines, while the youngest is a 26-year-old from Russia. The judge noted that many of the 40 have been here in the CNMI for so long and it's wonderful to see them finally join the American family.

The ceremony was held at the American Memorial Park Visitor's Center Theater in Garapan as part of the celebration of Constitution Day and Citizenship Day.

Naturalization ceremonies typically take place in courtrooms, but many courts opt to host them at schools, convention centers, national parks, and historic sites for Constitution Day and Citizenship Day.

Yinfong Cheng, who is from Hong Kong, first came to Saipan in 1987 to join her husband when they put up a wholesale store. She said their son was born in Guam and now works in Los Angeles, California.

Cheng said her main concern is when she travels off-island. With her new citizenship, she hopes to no longer have such problems. Cheng and her husband are now retired.

Among the other new citizens are couple Alejo T. Doctor Jr. and Justina B. Doctor, who are natives of the Philippines.

Alejo Doctor, 61, first came to Saipan to work as an accountant in 1988. Now he has an accounting firm.

Justina Doctor, 55, first arrived on the island in 1988 to work as a waitress in a restaurant.

"I am happy, grateful and proud to be a U.S. citizen," said Justina Doctor, who is currently an assistant with the human resources department of Triple J.

The Doctor couple obtained their citizenship through their daughter, Hazel, who was born on the island.

Aside from Cheng and the Doctor couple, the other new citizens are Imelda E. Ada, Julita A. Alcon, Mario D. Alo, Gabriel K. Arkoh, Maribel B. Atalig, Norbelita D. Batara, Camille J. Bocago, Josefina N. Diaz, Anchalee Iamjaroen, Genaro B. Inting, Luzviminda L. Ito, Mahabub Khan, Nhu Anh Thi Le, Corazon G. Loveras, Alfredo M. Manaluz, Emily A. Manglona, and Antonieto B. Mateo.

The others are Marylyn C. Montano, Louella M. Mundo, Somjit Chuamjorhor, Julieta M. Panaligan, Rosalinda L. Perje, Agripino S. Piamonte, Tersita C. Piamonte, Jesus M. Quiblat, Bhim B. Rai, Cristina C. Rapadas, Magdalena C. Realin, Victor B. Regacho, Sheila M. Sablan, Carolina A. San Nicolas, Dionisio M. Tababa Jr., Florence F. Tababa, Mark R. Travilla, Naum A. Vekhov, Imelda D. Wedding, and Leonil R. Yaguel.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy, assistant U.S. attorney James J. Benedetto, and Immigration Services officer Teresa Vega-Murrieta join the 40 new U.S. citizens for a group photo during Friday's naturalization ceremony at the American Memorial Park Visitor's Center Theater Park in Garapan.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9770 Facsimile (670)236-9797

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-JUDICIARY-11
SUBMISSION DATE: September 21, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE COLOR MULTIFUNCTION MACHINE FOR THE CNMI JUDICIARY"

The Commonwealth Judiciary ("Judiciary") is soliciting invitation for bids for one color multifunction machine.

The Invitation for Bids and supporting documents may be obtained at the cashier's window, Window #1, located at the front of the Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 prohibiting gratuities, kickbacks and contingent fees shall apply.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9770 Facsimile (670)236-9797

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-JUDICIARY-12
SUBMISSION DATE: September 21, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE COLOR MULTIFUNCTION MACHINE FOR THE CNMI JUDICIARY"

The Commonwealth Judiciary ("Judiciary") is soliciting invitation for bids for one color multifunction machine.

The Invitation for Bids and supporting documents may be obtained at the cashier's window, Window #1, located at the front of the Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan, during regular working hours.

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/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9770 Facsimile (670)236-9797

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-JUDICIARY-13
SUBMISSION DATE: September 21, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE MONOCHROME MULTIFUNCTION MACHINE FOR THE CNMI JUDICIARY"

The Commonwealth Judiciary ("Judiciary") is soliciting invitation for bids for one monochrome multifunction machine.

The Invitation for Bids and supporting documents may be obtained at the cashier's window, Window #1, located at the front of the Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 prohibiting gratuities, kickbacks and contingent fees shall apply.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9770 Facsimile (670)236-9797

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-JUDICIARY-06

SUBMISSION DATE: September 19, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
2018–2019 VEHICLE (5 Door All-Wheel Drive Utility Vehicle)

The Commonwealth Judiciary ("Judiciary") is soliciting invitation for bids for a utility vehicle for the Marshal Services Division.

The Invitation for Bids and supporting documents may be obtained at the cashier's window, Window #1, located at the front of the Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 prohibiting gratuities, kickbacks and contingent fees shall apply.

/S/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/S/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9770 Facsimile (670)236-9797

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-JUDICIARY-10

SUBMISSION DATE: September 19, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"PURCHASE OF A VEHICLE (4 Door Sedan) FOR THE CNMI Judiciary, Law Revision Commission"

The Commonwealth Judiciary ("Judiciary") is soliciting invitation for bids for four door sedan for the Law Revision Commission.

The Invitation for Bids and supporting documents may be obtained at the cashier's window, Window #1, located at the front of the Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 prohibiting gratuities, kickbacks and contingent fees shall apply.

/S/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/S/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP18-CHCC/BUSINESS OFFICE-011

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 04, 2018 TIME: 9:00AM

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Legislature honors MCS Mock Trial Knights

The 20th CNMI Legislature recently recognized Mount Carmel School's Mock Trial Knights for their performance in representing the CNMI at the 2018 National High School Mock Trial Championship in Reno, Nevada, where the team won the Larry Bakko Award for Professionalism and Civility.

The author of the House Resolution 20-31, Rep. Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan), presented a plaque of the resolution to the members of the team at a recent school assembly.

In the resolution, the House commended members of the team "for their honorable representation of the CNMI at the 2018 National High School Mock Trial Competition…and for their outstanding achievement in receiving the Larry Bakko Award."

In presenting the plaque, Blanco also gave each member of the team signed copies of the resolution.

The Larry Bakko award was created by the National High School Mock Trial Championship to highlight the importance of professionalism, civility, integrity, and fair play, both inside and outside the courtroom. The award is nominated by and voted on by all teams at the end of the competition.

The award is named after Larry Bakko, a pioneer in mock trial who developed the program's current scoring system and contributed to the continuing success of the program. As the national organization put it, "he strove to perfect his scoring system, he worried about judging panels, he stressed over the capacity of the courtrooms for the size of the spectator groups, he provided statistical analysis and frequently responded to many questions and challenges about the power-matching system." The organization added, "It was Larry's tenacity and love for the program that kept him coming back year after year."

Bakko passed away in 2013 after a battle with cancer.

In addition to winning the Larry Bakko Award, the Mock Trial Knights fared well in four contentious rounds. In all four rounds, the team faced states that had previously won the national competition, including Nebraska (1985 and 2015 national champions), Georgia (1995, 1999, 2007, 2008 national champions), South Carolina (1989 and 2004 national champions), and Wisconsin (1989 national champions). All four teams have also regularly placed in the top 10 since the start of the national competition in 1984. After all the rounds, the Mock Trial Knights won four ballots with a score of 1000, and ranked 34th in the nation, besting a dozen other teams, including mock trial powerhouses like Indiana (2009 and 2011 national champions), Hawaii (2005 2nd place), and South Carolina.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of Mount Carmel School's Mock Trial Knights gather for a photo with CNMI Rep. Ivan Blanco, far left, at a school assembly, where Blanco presented a copy of CNMI House Resolution 20-31, which recognized the team for winning the Larry Bakko Award for Professionalism and Civility at the 2018 National High School Mock Trial Championship held in Reno, Nevada.

The team expressed its appreciation to everyone that supported it along the way, including its attorney coach Garth Backe, Gov. Ralph Torres, attorney Vince Torres, the CNMI Public School System, Tim Thornburgh, Dencio Manglona, the CNMI Judiciary, the CNMI Bar Association, CNMI Mock Trial coordinator Deanna Manglona-Ogo, Eulalia Villagomez-Arriola, from the CNMI Bar Association, and Divana Dela Cruz from the CNMI Judiciary. ***(PR)***

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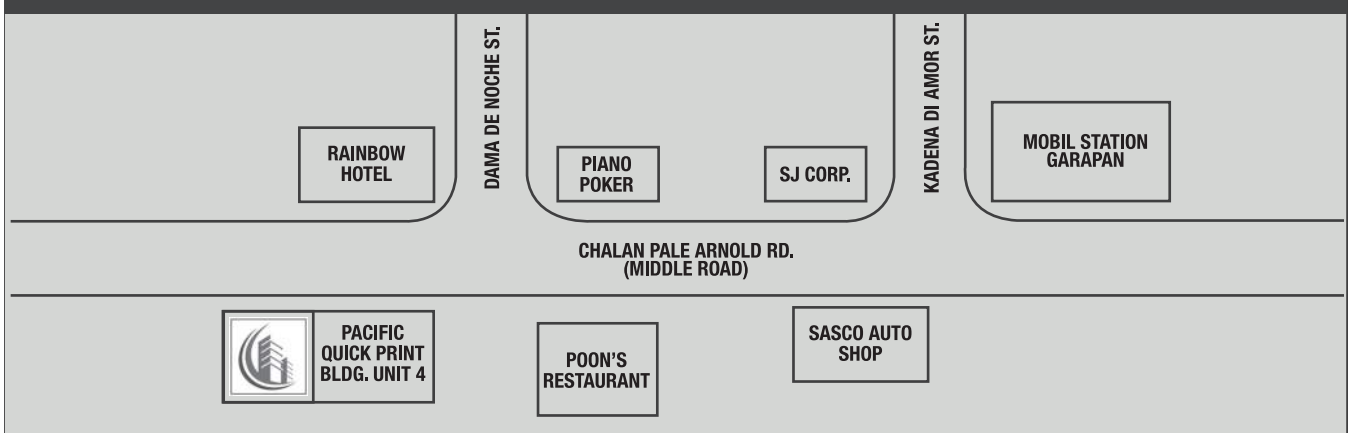

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Yes, Trump just fired a warning shot at Russia

President Trump signed an executive order Wednesday promising to punish anyone attempting to meddle in U.S. elections, including with "measures that could be capable of devastating an interfering country's economy," according to an administration description. For a presidency marked by an inconsistent stance on Russia, it was yet another shift in tone. That inconsistency explains why this warning shot against Russia and other foreign adversaries, while welcome, is insufficient. Congress also should act.

The executive order charges the U.S. intelligence community with determining whether foreign entities—people, organizations, governments—have tried to interfere, either by direct cyberattacks on election infrastructure or by spreading propaganda. Findings would be forwarded to other government agencies, which would apply initial automatic sanctions blocking any assets bad actors have under U.S. jurisdiction. The Treasury Department could apply further sanctions of varying bite, calibrated to the severity of the intrusion. Travel visas could be denied to foreign officials complicit in meddling; U.S. financial institutions could be barred from interacting with companies in targeted countries; countries' foreign exchange and debt markets could be squeezed.

The order gives the president and his top lieutenants much discretion; it would be up to them whether to go beyond the bare minimum of the automatic sanctions. Deterrence is the best defense against future meddling. Eliminating all vulnerabilities in the nation's sprawling electoral infrastructure, which varies widely across 50 states and sub-state jurisdictions, is impossible. The most effective policy would involve a credible warning of massive retaliation. But credibility is in short supply for this administration, particularly after Trump's obsequious performance before Russian President Vladimir Putin in Helsinki.

There are two bipartisan Senate proposals that, if passed, would send a stronger message. The bills—one shepherded by Sens. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), the other by Sens. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.) and Robert Menendez (D-N.J.)—would insist on tougher automatic sanctions, such as on the sovereign debt of countries sponsoring election interference or on economic sectors vital to those countries' economies. Other ideas include requiring more reporting on big real estate transactions that might mask foreign money laundering and bolstering federal law enforcement's ability to crack down on bad cyber-actors. With less than two months before the November election, Congress should act immediately.

If Trump did not have a long history of playing down Russian election interference and sidling up to Putin, his new order might be enough to deter future attacks. But no one watching this administration, including foreign actors contemplating future operations, can be confident that Trump would respond with more than minor sanctions. Congress should step in to send a clear message to the world: Any nation seeking to interfere in U.S. elections will pay a price.

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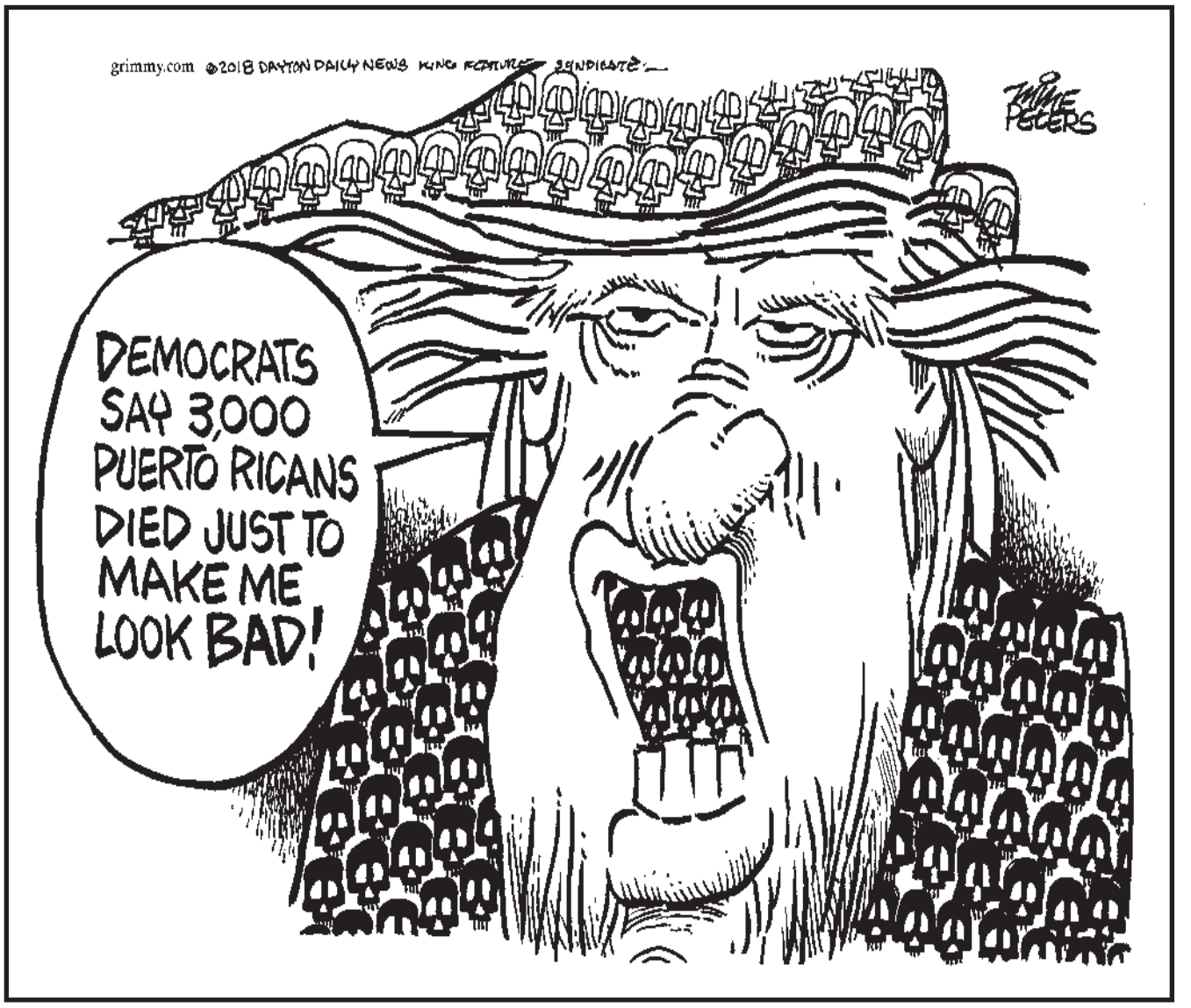
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DEMOCRATS SAY 3,000 PUERTO RICANS DIED JUST TO MAKE ME LOOK BAD!
TIM GRIMMS PEGLERS

America has always been great

By CHRISTINE FLOWERS
Philadelphia Daily News

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. *Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.*

I never liked the campaign slogan "Make America Great Again." The implication was that we'd entered some dystopian era in which America was unexceptional, unpleasant, and diminished. Watching the red-hatted #MAGA folk cheer at Donald Trump's rallies angered me, because the passionate elders and enthusiastic youth were inspired by a flimsy myth, namely, that America was second-rate.

The irony was not lost on me. These followers of a man –who wore the mantle of a conservative as uncomfortably as a porn star would wear a cloistered nun's habit– were adopting an attitude that was typical of the left.

Back in 1981, this Philadelphian who fancied herself an internationalist signed up for two semesters in the City of Lights, intent on perfecting my French and finding a boyfriend. The former was a wash, since I ended up telling my host family that I had a giant radish (I meant radio) in my bedroom at home, and that I had many prostitutes (I meant Protestants) for friends, and that we put too many condoms (I meant preservatives) in our food. The search for the boyfriend was even less successful.

But even if my initial goals were unfulfilled, I did return home with something of value. The United States of Ronald Reagan was not viewed with great appreciation in the France of Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, and I found myself defending my country at bakeries, at museums, at cinemas, at pharmacies, and pretty much everywhere else. Some of the most heated arguments took place at the university, where pretentious natives with superfluous scarves wrapped around their necks let me know that my president was going to kill them all with his lust for nuclear dominance.

If my French had been good enough I would have said, "Good, I hope he takes out the Sorbonne first," but instead I straightened my shoulders and muttered quietly, "Thank God I'm an American and understand the purpose of deodorant." And I came back with the ability to look at my country with uncomplicated devotion, which was becoming increasingly unpopular on college campuses and among the nascent special-interest groups that would one day channel their annoyance and resentment into something called "multiculturalism."

The vast majority of the people who criticized the U.S., both during my stay in France and when I came home, were what we would today call "progressives" and what we then called liberals. They made an art out of finding fault with the country they refused to abandon, probably because no other nation would allow them the freedom to whine incessantly and then applaud their constitutional engagement. My year in Paris turned me from a rather apolitical suburbanite to an unadulterated conservative who was in love with America.

It wasn't a blind love. There was the understanding that improvements were needed. Utopias only existed in the mind of Thomas More. But while I got the part about working to make positive changes, I was repulsed by the way so many on the left refused to acknowledge what was good because of their addiction to pointing out what was rotten. They proved the old axiom that the perfect is the enemy of the good.

Then, 17 years ago this week, the enemies of America ground two majestic towers into human dust, murdered thousands of innocents, and tried to crush our dreams under the weight of their hatred. For a very brief moment, we joined together and sat Shiva for the memory of an invincible America. And for that very brief moment, before the dust settled and the tears dried up, we were worthy of our citizenship.

But that willingness to suspend personal grievance has an infinitely short shelf life, and we were soon back to the bickering about how America was racist, and sexist, and homophobic, and then Islamophobic, and then xenophobic, and then... and then.

I was catapulted back to Paris 20 years before, battling the French as I tried to articulate why my country was and always would be an imperfect but glorious Valhalla. Plus ca change.

So imagine my disgust to hear people allegedly on my side say that we needed to be "great again." Donald Trump may scream that we are less, and he is wrong. Colin Kaepernick may silently condemn us for being unjust, and he is wrong. They are the same, in their shameful displays of ingratitude. And they are free to look like the fools they are.

We cannot diminish ourselves, despite our best efforts. America will always be great.

Our backlog of aspiring Americans

By PRAMILA JAYAPAL AND MANUEL PASTOR
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Naturalization ceremonies are joyous events. They're an occasion for new citizens—many of whom are longtime U.S. residents—to officially declare the United States as their home. They're also a reminder that it is not birthplace or ethnicity that makes one an American, but a commitment to shared principles and values.

Encouraging permanent residents to become U.S. citizens traditionally has been an area of bipartisan agreement, even in the face of heated debates over immigration policy. So why is the country lagging behind in naturalizing aspiring Americans?

Data from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the agency responsible for processing naturalization applications, currently show a backlog of more than 750,000 people. That's nearly double the number of pending applications that existed at the start of 2016, as pointed out in a report by the National Partnership for New Americans.

Waiting time between applying for and receiving approval for citizenship used to be about six months; now it is closer to a year. Some USCIS processing centers, including Los Angeles, report that applicants could linger in naturalization limbo for nearly two years.

The problem predates the Trump administration. In the run-up to the 2016 election, a surge of people rushed to become citizens to vote that November. That's typical of presidential election years, but USCIS seems to have found itself unprepared. During the more normal year of 2015, there were about 800,000 citizenship applications and the backlog at the end of that year (390,000) was only slightly larger than it was at the beginning. During 2016, however, there were more than 1 million applications and the backlog rose to about 640,000. As a result, many would-be citizens were shut out of voting.

Today, however, the elections are long past and yet the application backlog has increased by another 117,000. Two years ago, one might have attributed the logjam to the challenges of hiring to meet unexpected demand. But now there's been plenty of time to staff up. And yet, as members of Congress recently complained, field office staff has increased just 7 percent as the application backlog nearly doubled.

While some might point to scarce funding as the cause, USCIS is almost entirely self-sufficient; its funding comes primarily from immigration and naturalization application fees, not tax revenue. More applications should mean more resources. Despite this, USCIS has indicated it has no plans to add more adjudicators or expand its offices.

Slow-walking citizenship applications is of a piece with other worrisome actions by the Trump administration affecting legal immigration. It has, for example, hired several dozen lawyers and agents to ramp up Operation Janus—an effort to prosecute and strip citizenship from about 1,600 individuals (out of the more than 21 million naturalized citizens) who may have misled authorities on their naturalization application. There have also been efforts to discharge immigrants serving in the U.S. military who are part of a program that puts them on a path to citizenship. Currently the administration is writing rules to hinder naturalization for legal immigrants if anyone in their household—often U.S. citizens—utilized social services such as food stamps, children's health insurance or the Affordable Care Act.

USCIS has also sometimes drifted from its service-oriented mission of adjudicating and processing immigration benefits. Emails exposed in a lawsuit in Boston, for instance, show the agency working with Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to schedule fake interviews to lure immigrants to appointments where they were arrested and some deported.

In late July, 50 mayors and county executives signed a letter asking USCIS to reduce the citizenship application backlog. In August, immigrant and civil rights groups filed a Freedom of Information Act request to clarify the reasons for the ongoing delays. Shining a light on what's happening inside USCIS will be key to resolving the naturalization backlog—but so will continued public pressure.

Our country is in the midst of an important debate—one in which reasonable people can disagree—about what constitutes a just immigration system. Still, it is hard to find a legitimate reason for making would-be citizens endure long waits after they have jumped through all the hoops of eligibility.

Pramila Jayapal is the U.S. representative for Washington's 7th Congressional District. Manuel Pastor, a sociology professor, directs the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration at USC.

The blue-collar recovery

The economic recovery is really beginning to reach into Trump country.

The president is famous for his extravagant promises, involving, invariably, the biggest and the best. The landscape is littered with examples, although he never promised to create blue-collar jobs at the fastest clip since 1984, something he achieved in the first half of 2018.

A labor market that has been rocky since the financial crisis, and hasn't truly delivered for many workers for decades, is robust enough to reach all corners of the economy, including Trump areas that have recently been doing better than other parts of the country.

As the Brookings Institution observes, "goods-producing industries have been surging while services industries have seen their seasonally adjusted employment growth slow since 2016." This is good news for smaller, more rural areas, which are now actually outpacing the growth rate in large urban areas. According to Jed Kolko of Indeed Hiring Lab, "job growth accelerated between 2016 and '17 in counties that Trump won by at least 20 points."

Several things are going on. As the labor market has tightened -- in June, there were 6.7 million job openings and 6.6 million unemployed Americans -- it has benefited workers down the income scale.

The administration, for its part, has leaned into a pro-growth tax and deregulatory program meant to spur more investment and remove burdens on business. The goal has been to defeat fatalist predictions of a "secular stagnation" that supposedly meant that we could never realistically expect anything more than middling economic growth.

At the moment, the warnings are less of stagnation than of an alleged labor shortage that, according to CNBC, is nearing "epidemic proportions." This is exactly what we need. As Josh Barro of Business Insider points out, a tight labor market puts welcome upward pressure on wages and creates an incentive for workers to get more training and employers to provide it.

This dynamic still needs time to take hold. Wage growth, at least by traditional measures, has been surprisingly sluggish given the low unemployment rate (the White House argues that wages are being mismeasured and underestimated). But in August, encouragingly, average hourly wages increased 2.9 percent from a year ago, the biggest increase since June 2009.

As for training, a report from the National Association of Manufacturers says that two-thirds of manufacturers plan to increase worker training in the next year. This is so important because it's only possible to achieve sustainable wage gains by increasing the productivity of workers. And so far, despite the boom, productivity increases have still been lagging.

The encouraging news for blue-collar workers is welcome. But we should set our sights higher. Regaining what was lost in the aftermath of the financial crisis isn't enough. The national priority should be, as Oren Cass of the Manhattan Institute argues in his forthcoming book "The Once and Future Worker," returning to a lost golden age of work, when labor force participation rates and wage growth were both reliably high.

The implicit Trump pledge in the 2016 campaign was of jobs good and stable enough to make a decent living and raise a family. That should never be overpromising in America.

By RICH LOWRY
(c) 2018 by King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'Lawsuit vs Xtra Airways will proceed'

It had previously been reported that the $50-million lawsuit filed against Xtra Airways will not be pursued by the plaintiffs. This is not correct nor accurate.

The previously filed lawsuit has been dismissed temporarily for procedural reasons and the plaintiffs intend to refile as soon as possible. There is new serious evidence available against Xtra that was not included in the original complaint.

When the complaint and suit have been amended, the case will be refiled in the courts of Saipan. New counsel will direct the lawsuit on behalf of all the plaintiffs in China and Saipan to seek redress from Xtra for the unsafe charter operations and premature cancellation of flights between Saipan and cities in the Chinese mainland.

Dream Pacific Aviation Services (HK) Ltd as well as Impression Tours and the owners of both the Saipan Restaurant and those of the New Shin Restaurant, along with BW Car Rental and 21 Chinese tourists filed a racketeering and fraudulent conduct lawsuit against Xtra Airways Inc. of Florida and its owners and management.

Edmond Xia
President, Dream Pacific Aviation Services HK Ltd.

Double Down Trouble in White House Bubble

"In coordination with and at the direction of a candidate for federal office."
—Michael Cohen on guilty pleas to criminal actions under Trump.

Now doubling Trump's trouble
double down on his presidential run
a legally sticky gummy situation
please pardon the political pun
bad news has come to DC town
"sad" news to Trump is carried
financial crimes and tax fraud
not Fake News, no longer buried
Cohen guilty, Manafort convicted
Robert Mueller continues his quest
when 45 from WH will be evicted
is your 'bigly' 'believe me' guess
" double double toil and trouble
fire burn and cauldron bubble"
say witches in Shakespeare's Macbeth
our nation gasps and holds its breath.

W.I.T.C.H. H.U.N.T. T.R.U.M.P.

"Pecker's past practice puts POTUS in a pickle, precludes Pulitzer."
—Title of a 12-minute news segment on MSNBC

W. hacko, weird, wired to TV and his cell phone
I. mperial, imbecilic, irrational, ignoring reality
T. iny tot temper tantrums, tweeting all alone
C. alling all Congress, credibility crumbling
H. ortatory tweets, hair disguise, hoax! Hoax!

H. aving heartfelt feelings about only himself
U. nited States democracy being badly bruised
N. utty world of unreality, narcissistic hurts
T. ypical ALL CAPS tweets inability to write

T. ypical response is to daily tweet more insults
"R. igged witch hunt" repeated again and again
U. nderstanding coming from criminal cohorts
M. ore guilty pleas coming from buddies confides
P. ublisher Decker let 45 pick campaign headlines
"P.O.T.U.S. in a pickle" a major understatement.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

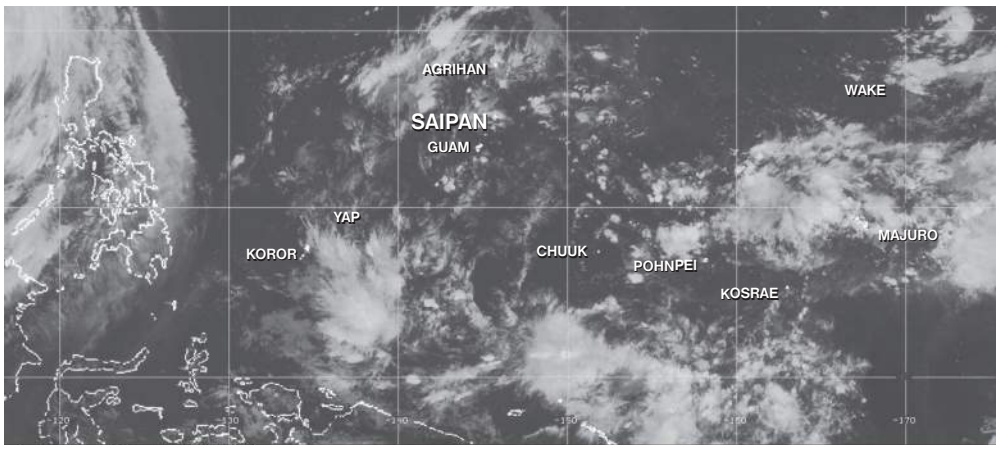
Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲85° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:36 AM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Little change made to the forecast. Updated winds the forecast with new model data. Shortly after midnight this morning a few showers and thunderstorms developed near the Marianas. This activity is probably associated with a weak surface trough just to the east of the local area. An upper-level low also could be found just to the northwest of the Marianas. The combination of the surface trough and upper-level low will produce more isolated showers and thunderstorms over the Marianas through tonight. A weak ridge of high pressure will decrease the chance of showers Monday through Tuesday. A surface trough could be found just east of Pohnpei this morning. Models show that it will transition into a circulation just northeast of Chuuk late tonight. The circulation will remain weak as it moves westward. This circulation will be just south of Guam on Wednesday. A surface trough will extend north of the circulation. Models agree that the surface trough will pass over the Marianas on Thursday. GFS hints scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms Wednesday and Thursday. ECMWF is drier with only patchy showers over the Marianas.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	57° / 52°
Beijing	Sunny	88° / 59°
Hong Kong	Showers	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	86° / 75°
London	Mostly Cloudy	63° / 48°
Los Angeles	Sunny	76° / 63°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	55° / 43°
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
New York	Partly Cloudy	78° / 65°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	82° / 70°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	64° / 48°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	82° / 66°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	72° / 57°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	89° / 67°
San Francisco	Windy	66° / 55°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	79° / 63°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	82° / 68°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	82° / 65°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
07:35 AM	LOW TIDE	0.19
2:55 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.55
8:08 PM	LOW TIDE	1.16
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:17 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:16 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:15 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:15 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:14 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:38 PM	-	-
Tuesday	-	12:13 AM	1:28 PM
Wednesday	-	1:02 AM	2:16 PM
Thursday	-	1:51 AM	3:02 PM
Friday	-	2:40 AM	3:46 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 6, 2018

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA117	7:00am	7:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Triple J donates $30K worth of tax credits

Trainees of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Northern Mariana Islands Humanities Council was chosen as one of the beneficiaries of Triple J Enterprises' educational tax credits.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Triple J Enterprises recently contributed educational tax credits to 15 eligible institutions on island. Among the beneficiaries were the Northern Marianas Technical Institute, the Northern Mariana Islands Humanities Council, and Mt. Carmel School.

To ensure that Triple J meets this commitment, asked all ETC recipients were asked this year to answer a short questionnaire describing how their institution used Triple J's contributions in the past.

"Their responses helped us make the decisions for this year's allocations and we will continue to do so moving forward," said Tracy Guerrero, Triple J Saipan Inc. controller.

"We encourage all eligible organizations to continue to submit their requests for support as we are always looking for new ways to touch the lives of those in need," she added.

For over three decades and hand in hand with its business expansion, Triple J Enterprises has helped improve the quality of lives of those in need and build better communities through its philanthropic contributions and personal involvement in nonprofit causes and to individuals.

NMTIchief executive officer, Agnes McPhetres, said: "On behalf of the NMTI board and our entire NMTI family, I extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude to Triple J Enterprises for its generosity and continuous support of our programs. This great partnership demonstrates the important symbiotic relationship between NMTI, the training institute, and Triple J Enterprises, the employer. It's contributions as such that help support our goal of educating our community members in the present to sustain our future."

Polly DLG Masga, board chair of the NMI Humanities Council, had similar sentiments: "We are sincerely thankful for the donation made by Triple J Saipan. The donation helps contribute to our ongoing efforts to produce and fund programs for the council. Triple J's generosity makes a positive impact to the success of reaching our goals."

Galvin Deleon Guerrero, MCS president, said the ETC contribution is "a tremendous help to our school and fund two important resources: workbooks for our elementary students and scholarships/financial aid for roughly a fifth of our student body. We truly appreciate the support." ***(PR)***

Representatives of Triple J Enterprises present an education tax credit donation to Mount Carmel School. This is the second year in a row that Triple J has made a large ETC contribution to the school.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CCA donation enables digital imaging at CHC

In support of a cancer-free CNMI, the Commonwealth Cancer Association has once again donated to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Department of Radiology and its mammography facility, making it now possible for the department to provide digital mammography.

Since June 1, 2018, the CHCC mammography section has provided digital screening and diagnostic mammograms for all patients in need of the service, thanks in large part to an initial $2,600 contribution from the CCA.

Last week, the CCA board of directors agreed to contribute once again to the CHCC mammography program with a $7,794 donation for a mammography film digitizing system.

This system will allow for the digital conversion of the complete, film-based mammography examination history of each and every patient, to be used for comparison during the radiologist's interpretation.

"The system will be an invaluable tool in providing and assuring that a complete exam history is available for our interpreting physicians and diagnostic accuracy is enhanced" a statement provided to *Saipan Tribune* said. "CHCC is privileged and proud to recognize the support and involvement of the CCA in cancer prevention and detection."

CCA is a community-based nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting cancer awareness and prevention, providing patient support services, and serving as the liaison and advocate for cancer issues in the CNMI and the region.

CCA began as a coalition of volunteers who are committed to reducing the burden of cancer in the Northern Mariana Islands. These volunteers serve on the CCA board, and committees, help raise funds, and participate in training, outreach, and patient support programs. CCA's programs and services are fully supported by the Marianas March Against Cancer and the Cancer Fund. ***(PR)***

Bank offers loan and assistance program for Mangkhut victims

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Bank of Hawaii has initiated several emergency financial assistance programs to help those affected by the recent heavy rains and flooding due to Typhoon Mangkhut.

"Our hearts go out to all of those who suffered home or property damage from the typhoon," said Peter Ho, chairman, CEO and president of Bank of Hawaii. "Many Guam and Saipan residents are dealing with the aftermath of the storm, and our loan officers are ready to work with them to quickly bring some normalcy back to their lives with the help of our emergency assistance programs."

Essentially, the programs provide access to cash via special loan programs or relief on existing Bank of Hawaii loans through loan extensions or forbearances. Special program features include:

- Low-interest rates on loans
- Loans with no payments for the first three months
- Fast approval and quick funding
- Reduced payments with loan terms up to 60 months
- Loan amounts up to $25,000

Depending on the particular loan program, funds may be used to: 1) provide cash relief for emergency supplies and living essentials; 2) repair homes and/or vehicles, replacement of living essentials, or to bridge working capital needs; 3) receive forbearance and/or extension on loans for existing BOH clients.

Information and specific details on each of the programs are available by calling Bank of Hawaii's Customer Service Center on Oahu at: 1-888-643-3888. Applications can be submitted at any BOH branch or by calling the Customer Service Center. ***(PR)***

CPA board approves credit card terminals for Saipan ports

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.coms
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors has adopted a resolution to authorize CPA executive director Christopher Tenorio and its comptroller to obtain credit card terminals for the Saipan airport and seaport.

At a meeting last week, board committee on finance chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds moved for the approval of the CPA resolution, saying it had been extensively discussed before.

"This will give our customers the ability to pay credit cards instead of cash to make it easier for everybody," King-Hinds said.

CPA directors unanimously adopted the resolution without discussions. CPA acting chair Thomas P. Villagomez presided over the meeting. Also present were board secretary Roman T. Tudela and members Pete P. Reyes and Barrie C. Toves.

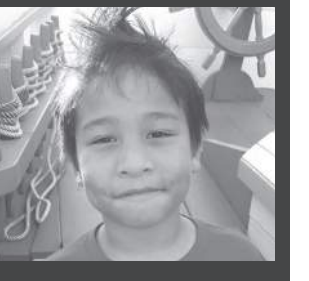
CPA introduced the resolution to increase its revenue by accepting electronic payments from customers who do not want to pay cash.

CPA has determined that payment by cards is a more secure transaction and provides better protection against fraud such as cash and counterfeit notes.

CPA has found out that accepting payments by cards will improve its cash flow as card payments are automatically transacted and immediately goes into CPA's financial account within one business day.

The board has agreed that the CPA executive director and its comptroller should coordinate with a bank to obtain credit card terminals for the Saipan airport and seaport.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy 7th birthday to our son, Eujavinel Jethanio Pinaula Repeki! May the Lord bless you with many more birthdays to come and enjoy your special day today. We love you! Greetings coming out from Mommy, Daddy, your brothers Jacob, Marleon, and the entire family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Typhoon Mangkhut on Rota

Ayuda Luta Relief Drive

A DFEMS firefighter holds a sign asking motorists to donate any amount. JON PEREZ

JON PEREZ
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, fifth left, joins government personnel and other volunteers in last Saturday's relief drive at the Garapan Fishing Base.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Rep. Angel A. Demapan delivers 20 cases of butane canisters and sanitary wipes at the Ayuda Luta Relief Drive at the Garapan Fishing Base last Saturday to aid families affected by Typhoon Mangkhut on Rota.

JON PEREZ
Miss Marianas Celine Cabrera helps collect monetary donations.

One of the two containers that were filled by various items that will be given to the people of Rota. JON PEREZ

A volunteer holds a sign showing the community's support to the people of Rota. JON PEREZ

JON PEREZ
Entertainment was provided to keep the spirits up of all volunteers.

Volunteers pack clothes and canned goods in boxes before being shipped to Rota. JON PEREZ

Volunteers pass water bottles that will be shipped to Rota. JON PEREZ

IN CONSTITUTION DAY AND CITIZENSHIP DAY CEREMONIES

USCIS to welcome about 45,000 new citizens

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will celebrate Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, observed today, Sept. 17, with over 260 naturalization ceremonies across the country from Sept. 14 to 23 as part of this year's celebration of Constitution Week.

Approximately, 45,000 lawful permanent residents will become America's newest citizens during the annual commemoration honoring both the signing of the U.S. Constitution 231 years ago on Sept. 17, 1787, and an observance that began in 1940 as "I Am an American Day."

USCIS' Constitution Week activities will feature a naturalization ceremony at Oatlands Historic House and Gardens in Leesburg, Virginia where USCIS director L. Francis Cissna will administer the oath of allegiance and provide congratulatory remarks to new U.S. citizens.

"We reflect this week on what it means to be an American and the integral nexus between the Constitution and citizenship," said Cissna. "The Constitution plays an essential role in the lives of all Americans, but particularly for those who are Americans by choice. It not only establishes the rule of law, but also creates the framework for the lawful immigration system that exists today, empowering immigrants to become citizens."

Critically, although USCIS has experienced a sustained 25-percent increase in the number of naturalization applications over the last two fiscal years on average, annual naturalization totals have not slowed. In fact, USCIS is on pace to complete at least 829,000 N-400 applications for naturalization in fiscal year 2018, the highest since 2013 and nearing its 10-year high in the number of N-400s processed. The current approval rate is within 1 percent of the average since 2013 despite a historic influx of applications. The average approval rate from 2013-2017 is 91 percent.

"This is a testament to the dedication, diligence and hard work put forth by adjudicators and agency staff each day," Cissna said.

In response to the record workload, USCIS has implemented a range of process and operational reforms, hired additional staff and expanded its facilities to ensure that its ability to lawfully adjudicate applications keeps pace with the escalating demand for services.

Each year, USCIS welcomes approximately 700,000 to 780,000 new citizens during naturalization ceremonies across the United States and around the world. In fiscal year 2017 the agency naturalized more than 716,000 individuals.

To help applicants prepare to become U.S. citizens, USCIS provides study materials and resources on the Citizenship Resource Center. Applicants can practice for the civics test using the mobile app, USCIS: Civics Test Study Tools, which is currently available for download in Google Play and the iTunes App Store. In addition to being the only official USCIS Civics Test app, it keeps old tests for review, has a game to challenge your civics knowledge, and lists all 100 questions and answers that could be asked in the actual civics test.

The importance of the Constitution in the United States is reflected in several places on the naturalization test. Prospective citizens may see this in questions such as, "What does the Constitution do?" and "What do we call the first 10 amendments to the Constitution?" ***(USCIS)***

IPI collects almost 600 lbs of trash in Int'l Coastal Cleanup

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC joined the Commonwealth on Saturday in the worldwide effort to fight ocean pollution with the International Coastal Cleanup.

Imperial Pacific through its Corporate Social Responsibility office and several company officials and employees, joined in the islandwide cleanup, and collected close to 600 lbs of trash at the daylong event.

Since 2016, the CNMI has removed over 7,000 lbs of trash, covered 138 miles, and documented 51,519 items of trash in Ocean Conservancy's global ocean trash database. Imperial Pacific International has become an active participating company. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Imperial Pacific International fielded its employees led by its Corporate Social Responsibility in the annual massive coastal on Sept. 15.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IPI senior vice president for Operations Donnie Browne and his group led in the hauling of debris and trash.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Another group of Imperial Pacific's International Coastal Cleanup group.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Division of Coastal Resource Management staff Julius P. and Tom C. join IPI-CSR coordinator Kent Kalen and CSR representative Fuji Suel in hauling off some of the nearly 600 lbs of trash.

Scott Murrow, assistant vice president for table games and his wife, Karen, volunteered for the annual ICC. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Donnie Browne, senior vice president-operation; Thomas Summers, senior project manager-IT; Scott Morro, assistant vice president-table games and wife, Karen, CSR manager Alex Palacios along with IPI-CSR team gather for a briefing.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

One of the groups, composed of IPI-CSR representatives Scott Leon Guerrero, D.J. Ayuyu and Jia Kapileo, worked during last Saturday's ICC.

Piles of trash, debris, and other waste—about 600 lbs—were collected by Imperial Pacific International through its Corporate Social Responsibility during last weekend's global International Coastal Cleanup. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Report: Trump set to go ahead with plans for new China tariffs

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump is going ahead with plans to impose new tariffs on about $200 billion of Chinese imports, The Wall Street Journal reported Saturday.

Trump

Both sides were preparing to hold new talks on their tariff dispute. Last week Trump told reporters such a move could come "very soon."

The Journal cited unnamed people familiar with the matter who said the tariff level will likely be set at about 10 percent, below the 25 percent announced earlier this year.

The two governments have already imposed 25 percent tariffs on $50 billion of each other's goods. Beijing has issued a list of another $60 billion of American products for retaliation if Trump's next tariff hike goes ahead.

White House spokeswoman Lindsay Walters declined comment on the timing of a possible announcement, but said: "The President has been clear that he and his administration will continue to take action to address China's unfair trade practices. We encourage China to address the long standing concerns raised by the United States."

The Chinese foreign ministry said Thursday that it was invited to hold new talks. Envoys from the two countries last met Aug. 22 in Washington but reported no progress.

Beijing has rejected pressure from the United States to roll back plans for state-led development of Chinese global champions in robotics, artificial intelligence and other fields.

Washington, Europe and other trading partners say those plans violate China's market-opening commitments. American officials also worry they might erode U.S. industrial leadership.

Forecasters have warned that the worsening conflict between the world's two biggest traders could cut up to 0.5 percentage point off global economic growth through 2020 if all threatened tariff hikes go ahead.

Investigator: No evidence gas explosions intentional

LAWRENCE, Mass. (AP)—There's no evidence to suggest the gas explosions that rocked communities north of Boston were intentional, a federal investigator said Saturday.

As federal officials opened their investigation into Thursday's disaster, National Transportation Safety Board Chairman Robert Sumwalt said that there doesn't appear to be "anything nefarious, anything suspicious, anything intentional."

He said investigators will be working to develop a timeline going back at least three weeks, including reviewing any reports of gas odors reported by residents in the impacted communities of Lawrence, North Andover and Andover.

Investigators will also look at how local Columbia Gas officials responded to a "pressure increase" in the Lawrence area that was detected at the company's pipeline control center in Columbus, Ohio, prior to the explosions and fires.

"We're very interested to understand the operations of Columbia Gas," he said.

Sumwalt said NTSB investigators expect to be on site up to ten days but a final report about what happened could take up to two years to complete.

The dramatic series of explosions and fires Thursday destroyed or damaged dozens of homes, killed a teenager, injured dozens and forced thousands of people to evacuate from the three Merrimack Valley communities.

Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker declared a state of emergency for the area and put Eversource Energy, another utility, in charge of recovery efforts after state and local officials said they were unsatisfied with Columbia Gas' response.

Company president Stephen Bryant defended his company's performance Friday, saying it had more than 300 workers and contractors responding, with another 100 on the way.

Meanwhile, a report of a strong gas odor brought officials back to a part of Lawrence most impacted by the explosions and fires Saturday morning.

Firefighters and gas workers opened manholes, tested gas levels and tried to gain access to businesses on the city's south side, but the situation appeared to be contained by 11:15 a.m.

Federal court ponders next steps in DeVos for-profit suit

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration on Friday asked the court for another chance to delay an Obama-era policy meant to boost protections for students defrauded by for-profit schools.

The request comes two days after the court ruled that Education Secretary Betsy DeVos' move to freeze the regulation known as borrower defense was "arbitrary and capricious." That decision dealt a severe blow to her efforts to ease regulations on the for-profit college industry.

Attorney Adam Pulver with Public Citizen, an advocacy group, said defrauded students are facing "continuing everyday harm" and asked the court that the delayed regulation be enforced immediately.

But lawyers for the Department of Education asked Judge Randolph Moss to give the agency a chance to correct the mistakes the court identified in how the delay was put in place. It also asked that in case the court does rule that the Obama regulation must take effect, that it grant the department 60 days to prepare.

Judge Moss did not say when he would issue a ruling.

Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, who took part in the lawsuit against DeVos along with a group of Democratic attorneys general from a number of states, said Wednesday's ruling was "a victory for every family defrauded by a predatory for-profit school."

The Obama administration went hard after the for-profit sector, tightening regulations and spending over $550 million to forgive the loans of defrauded students. DeVos said that system was unfair to taxpayers and set out to rewrite those rules.

Critics charged that DeVos was looking out for industry interests. They point to the fact that she has hired for-profit insiders to top positions at her agency.

But Rick Hess, director of education policy at the conservative American Enterprise Institute, said DeVos is "trying to strike a healthier balance between protecting students and ensuring that taxpayers don't get ripped off."

Nation

AS FLORENCE FLOODS INLAND RIVERS

Fearsome new stage begins

NEW BERN, N.C. (AP)—As the death toll from Florence mounted and hundreds of people were pulled from flooded homes, North Carolina is bracing for what could be the next stage of a still-unfolding disaster: widespread, catastrophic river flooding.

AP
A tour boat is stacked up next to a railroad bridge as a result from Florence in New Bern, N.C., Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018.

After blowing ashore as a hurricane with 90 mph (145 kph) winds, Florence virtually parked itself much of the weekend atop the Carolinas as it pulled warm water from the ocean and hurled it onshore. Storm surges, flash floods and winds scattered destruction widely and the Marines, the Coast Guard, civilian crews and volunteers used helicopters, boats and heavy-duty vehicles to conduct rescues Saturday.

The death toll from the hurricane-turned-tropical storm climbed to 11.

Rivers are swelling toward record levels, forecasters now warn, and thousands of people have been ordered to evacuate for fear that the next few days could bring the most destructive round of flooding in North Carolina history.

Stream gauges across the region showed water levels rising steadily, with forecasts calling for rivers to crest Sunday and Monday at or near record levels: The Little River, the Cape Fear, the Lumber, the Neuse, the Waccamaw and the Pee Dee were all projected to burst their banks, possibly flooding nearby communities.

Authorities ordered the immediate evacuation of up to 7,500 people living within a mile (1.6 kilometers) of a stretch of the Cape Fear River and the Little River, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) from the North Carolina coast. The evacuation zone included part of the city of Fayetteville, population 200,000.

John Rose owns a furniture business with stores less than a mile (1.6 kilometers) from the river. Rain-soaked furniture workers helped him quickly empty more than 1,000 mattresses from a warehouse in a low-lying strip mall.

"It's the first time we've ever had to move anything like this," Rose said. "If the river rises to the level they say it's going to, then this warehouse is going to be under water."

On U.S. Route 401 nearby, rain rose in ditches and around unharvested tobacco crops along the road. Ponds had begun to overflow, and creeks passing under the highway churned with muddy, brown water. Further along the Cape Fear River, grass and trees lining the banks were partly submerged, still well below a highway bridge crossing it.

"It's hard to believe it's going to get that high," says Elizabeth Machado, who came to the bridge to check on the river.

Fayetteville's city officials, meanwhile, got help from the Nebraska Task Force One search and rescue team to evacuate some 140 residents of an assisted living facility in Fayetteville to a safer location at a church.

Already, more than 2 feet (60 centimeters) of rain has fallen in places, and forecasters saying there could be an additional 1½ feet (45 centimeters) before Sunday is out.

"I cannot overstate it: Floodwaters are rising, and if you aren't watching for them, you are risking your life," Gov. Roy Cooper said.

As of 11 p.m., Florence was centered about 40 miles (65 kilometers) east-southeast of Columbia, South Carolina, crawling west at 3 mph (6 kph)—not even as fast as a person walking. Its winds were down to 40 mph (75 kph).

In Goldsboro, North Carolina, home of Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, roads that frequently flood were already closed Saturday by rushing water. Dozens of electric repair trucks massed to respond to damage expected to hit central North Carolina as rainwater collected into rivers headed to the coast. Hundreds of thousands of outages have been reported.

A creek that feeds into the Neuse was rushing over a road near Phil Eubanks' home Saturday. Another creek backed up into their basement Friday, but based on past experience Eubanks and his wife think the worst is over for them.

"I didn't sleep last night. It was creeping up those steps" from the basement, said his jittery wife, Ellen. "It came up. It went down today. I think we're OK."

On Saturday evening, Duke Energy said heavy rains caused a slope to collapse at a coal ash landfill at a closed power station outside Wilmington, North Carolina. Duke spokeswoman Paige Sheehan said about 2,000 cubic yards (1,530 cubic meters) of ash were displaced at the Sutton Plant and that contaminated storm water likely flowed into the plant's cooling pond.

Sutton was mothballed in 2013 and the company has been excavating ash to remove to safer lined landfills. The ash left behind when coal is burned contains toxic heavy metals, including lead and arsenic.

In New Bern , along the coast, homes were completely surrounded by water, and rescuers used inflatable boats to reach people Saturday.

Kevin Knox and his family were rescued by boat from their flooded brick home with the help of Army Sgt. Johan Mackie, whose team used a phone app to locate people in distress.

"Amazing. They did awesome," said Knox, who was stranded with seven others including a boy in a life vest.

New Bern spokeswoman Colleen Roberts said 455 people were safely rescued in the town of 30,000 residents. She called damage to thousands of buildings "heart-wrenching."

Asia

Typhoon aims at south China

TUGUEGARAO, Philippines (AP)—Typhoon Mangkhut roared toward densely populated Hong Kong and southern China on Sunday after ravaging across the northern Philippines with ferocious winds and heavy rain that left at least 28 dead in landslides and collapsed houses.

The strongest storm so far this year in the world sliced across the northern tip of Luzon Island on Saturday, a breadbasket that is also a region of flood-prone rice plains and mountain provinces with a history of deadly landslides. More than 5 million people were in the path of the typhoon, equivalent to a Category 5 Atlantic hurricane when it hit the Philippines. On Sunday morning, It packed sustained winds of 155 kilometers (96 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 190 kph (118 mph).

» After killing 28 in Philippines

Hong Kong and southern China issued the highest storm signals. The Guangdong provincial office in charge of flood prevention said Sunday that nearly half a million people had been evacuated from seven cities.

The Hong Kong Observatory said although Mangkhut had weakened slightly, its extensive, intense rainbands were bringing heavy downfall and frequent squalls. Storm surge of about 3 ½ meters (9.8 feet) or above is expected at the city's waterfront Victoria Harbour, the observatory said, appealing on the public to avoid the shoreline.

AP

A resident walks beside a toppled basketball court after Typhoon Mangkhut barreled across Tuguegarao city, Cagayan province, northeastern Philippines, Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018.

Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Albayalde told The Associated Press that 20 had died in the Cordillera mountain region, four in nearby Nueva Vizcaya province and another outside of the two regions. Three more deaths have been reported in northeastern Cagayan province, where the typhoon made landfall.

Among the fatalities were an infant and a 2-year-old child who died with their parents after the couple refused to immediately evacuate from their high-risk community in a Nueva Vizcaya mountain town, said Francis Tolentino, an adviser to Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte.

"They can't decide for themselves where to go," he said of the children, expressing frustration that the tragedy was not prevented.

Tolentino, who was assigned by Duterte to help coordinate disaster response, said at least two other people were missing.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan said at least three people died and six others were missing in his mountain city of Baguio after strong winds and rain destroyed several houses and set off landslides, which also blocked roads to the popular vacation destination. It was not immediately clear whether the dead and missing had been included in the overall death toll.

Moon faces toughest challenge yet in 3rd summit with Kim

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The first inter-Korean summit of 2018, a sunny spectacle in late April, reduced war fears on the peninsula. The second, an emergency one in May, helped ensure a historic meeting between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump came off.

Now, at his third summit with Kim next week in Pyongyang, South Korean President Moon Jae-in faces his toughest challenge yet: delivering something substantive that goes beyond previous vague statements on denuclearization and helps get U.S.-North Korea talks back on track.

Negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang have sputtered in recent weeks, raising doubts about whether Kim is truly willing to relinquish his nuclear arsenal and putting pressure on Moon to broker progress once again.

The result will likely be a crucial indicator of how the larger nuclear negotiations with the United States will proceed. Moon will try to get Kim to express more clearly that he's prepared to abandon his nuclear weapons, which could create momentum for a second Kim-Trump summit.

Whether Moon succeeds, fails or falls somewhere in between, the third inter-Korean summit could help answer a persistent question: When Kim says he supports the "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," what does he actually mean?

DENUCLEARIZATION DEBATE

Moon heads to Pyongyang on Tuesday facing lingering questions over his claim that Kim, during his conversations with South Korean officials, has privately expressed a genuine interest in dealing away his nuclear weapons and missiles.

The wave of optimism that surrounded the first two inter-Korean summits in April and May and the Singapore meeting between Trump and Kim in June conveniently overlooked disagreements about what exactly Kim had committed to.

"The third summit will bring more clarity to what North Korea means with the complete denuclearization of the peninsula," said Kim Taewoo, former president of Seoul's government-funded Korea Institute for National Unification. "If the North has been negotiating with goodwill all this time, Moon will be able to return with good results. But, regrettably, I see that possibility as low."

He said it will be crucial for Moon to get Kim Jong Un to give a clearer signal that he is willing to accept credible actions toward denuclearization, such as providing a detailed description of North Korea's nuclear program, a key first step toward inspecting and dismantling of it.

At his meetings with Moon and Trump, Kim signed statements pledging the complete denuclearization of the peninsula. But the North for decades has been pushing a concept of denuclearization that bears no resemblance to the American definition, vowing to pursue nuclear development until the United States removes its troops from South Korea and the nuclear umbrella defending South Korea and Japan.

World

OAS chief threatens military force vs Venezuela

CUCUTA, Colombia (AP)—The head of the Organization of American States has joined President Donald Trump in holding out the threat of a military intervention in Venezuela to restore democracy and ease the country*s humanitarian crisis

OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro delivered the sharp warning in a visit Friday to Colombia's border with Venezuela in which he also denounced President Nicolas Maduro*s socialist "dictatorship" for spurring a region-wide migration crisis.

"With respect to a military intervention to overthrow Nicolas Maduro's regime, I don't think any option should be ruled out," Almagro said at a press conference in the Colombian city of Cucuta. "What Nicolas Maduro's regime is perpetrating are crimes against humanity, the violation of the human rights and the suffering of people that is inducing an exodus. Diplomatic actions should be the first priority but we shouldn't rule out any action."

Almagro has been Maduro's most outspoken critic in Latin America, but until Friday he hadn't been willing to go as far as Trump, who last year raised the possibility of a "military option" against Maduro. In several meetings with aides and Latin American leaders last year, Trump also discussed the possibility of a U.S. invasion of the South American nation.

Still, for many in Latin America, the prospect of a military intervention is bound to revive memories of the Cold War, when the U.S. gave backing to coups and rebellions from countries including Chile, Cuba and Brazil.

For Almagro, the threat of military force is especially surprising given his condemnation of the region's support for a U.S. invasion of the Dominican Republic in 1965 to remove a democratically-elected but pro-Cuban president. The invasion, carried out in the OAS' name, left thousands dead and for decades stirred Latin American resentment against the idea of ever again using force against sovereign nation.

Almagro in 2015 apologized for the OAS' role in the invasion, saying such events should not be repeated.

While circumstances in Venezuela are far different, and many still see an invasion as a remote possibility, Maduro has nonetheless held out the threat to try and rally Venezuelans behind him at a time of mounting hardships.

Almagro in his visit Friday said countries in the Western Hemisphere should work together to provide relief to the droves of Venezuelans who every day are fleeing hyperinflation and food shortages in their homeland.

But, he added, the ultimate solution to the crisis is to restore democracy in Venezuela.

"The international community has to provide answers. We can't allow a dictatorship in Venezuela that affects the security of entire region through drug trafficking, organized crime and the deep humanitarian crisis it has created," Almagro said.

During Friday's visit to the border, Almagro met aid workers and government officials in the Colombian city of Cucuta, where schools and hospitals are struggling to cope with the influx of Venezuelan migrants.

The outspoken diplomat was stopped on the street and greeted by dozens of Venezuelan migrants who urged him to work for the "liberation" of Venezuela from tyranny.

WORLD BRIEFS

Syria: Israel launched missile attack on Damascus airport

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Israel attacked Damascus International Airport with missiles Saturday night, Syrian state media said, adding that air defenses shot down some of them. A war monitoring group said the attack targeted an arms depot for Iranian forces or Lebanon's Hezbollah group. Explosions during the attack were heard across Damascus. The state news agency SANA posted pictures showing what appeared to be air defenses firing into the air. State media quoted an unidentified military official as reporting the attack but gave no further details. Rami Abdurrahman, who heads the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said the attack targeted an arms depot near the airport where new weapons recently arrived for the Iranians or Lebanon's Hezbollah group. The monitoring group had no immediate word on casualties, saying the strike did cause material damage.

Rwanda frees opposition leader, 2,100 others from prison

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP)—A prominent Rwandan opposition leader walked free on Saturday after the government approved the early release of more than 2,100 prisoners with little explanation. Victoire Ingabire Umuhoza's release surprised many because it is unusual for longtime President Paul Kagame to pardon potential challengers. She quickly urged Kagame to release all other political prisoners. "The beginning of opening of the political space in Rwanda, I hope so," she told reporters. Ingabire, head of the FDU-Inkingi opposition party, was arrested in 2010 and found guilty of conspiracy to undermine the government and denying Rwanda's 1994 genocide, charges that she denied. She was sentenced to 15 years. Human Rights Watch called the charges politically motivated and linked to her criticism of the government ahead of the 2010 presidential election.

Pope pays tribute in Sicily to priest slain by Mafia

PALERMO, Sicily (AP)—Pope Francis appealed to Mafiosi to renounce their quests for power and money as he visited Sicily on Saturday to honor a priest slain by mob henchmen for trying to protect youths from the evil clutches of organized crime. The day-long trip by Francis to the Mediterranean island where the Cosa Nostra is rooted marked the 25th anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Giuseppe "Pino" Puglisi's assassination. Puglisi was declared a martyr by the Vatican and beatified in 2013, the last formal step before possible sainthood. Francis paid tribute to the priest, who worked to keep unemployed youths in a poor neighborhood of Palermo from turning to local Mafia bosses for jobs like pushing drugs. The papal pilgrimage came in counterpoint to the latest revelations about priests and bishops who sexually abused children or connived to protect the abusers in various nations, disclosures battering the highest levels of the church and testing the faith of rank-and-file Catholics. Tens of thousands of people cheered Francis at an open air Mass held in the late morning at an esplanade along the port city's waterfront. "Let's renew the church," read a large banner carried by young people in the crowd as Francis was driven by in his white popemobile.

Health & Wellness

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When erratic teenage behavior means something more

By EMILY BAZAR
KAISER HEALTH NEWS

Mary Rose O'Leary has shepherded three children into adulthood, and teaches art and music to middle-school students.

Despite her extensive personal and professional experience with teens, the Eagle Rock, Calif., resident admits she's often perplexed by their behavior.

"Even if you have normal kids, you're constantly questioning, 'Is this normal?' " says O'Leary, 61.

Teenagers can be volatile and moody. They can test your patience, push your buttons and leave you questioning your sanity—and theirs.

I'm not being flip. Mental health challenges are a serious—and growing—problem for teenagers: Teen and young-adult suicide has nearly tripled since the 1940s. The rate of 12- to 17-year-olds who struggled with clinical depression increased by 37 percent in a decade, according to a recent study.

And schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders often manifest themselves in adolescence.

In fact, half of all mental health conditions emerge by age 14, and three-quarters by 24, says Dr. Steven Adelsheim, director of the Stanford Center for Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing, part of the university's psychiatry department.

For parents, it's often hard to separate the warning signs of mental illness from typically erratic teenage behavior.

When O'Leary's son, Isaac, now 23, was a teen, he had two run-ins with police—once for hosting a wild party while his mom was away, and again when he and a friend climbed up on the roof and challenged each other to shoot BB guns.

O'Leary dismissed those incidents as teenage pranks. But she did start to worry when she was in the midst of divorce proceedings with her then-husband and noticed that Isaac started exhibiting some unusual behavior. He complained of stomachaches and racked up absences from school.

That's when she decided it was time for the family to see a therapist. "It's a question of what's normal for my kids," she explains.

O'Leary is right. Mental health experts say the first step in recognizing possible mental illness in your children is to know their habits and patterns—to spot when they deviate from them—and to create an environment in which they feel comfortable talking with you.

Instead of asking your teen to talk, share an activity that will give your child the chance to open up: Cook dinner together, walk the dog, take a drive, says Tara Niendam, an associate professor in psychiatry at the University of California-Davis.

"You just want to know how they're doing as a person. How are things going at school? How are their friends? How are they sleeping?" she explains.

As part of getting to know your teen, monitor and limit your child's social media activity, says Dr. Amy Barnhorst, vice chair for community mental health in the UC-Davis psychiatry department.

"Social media gives us this important window into what's going on in teenagers' lives," she says.

Once you know your child's baseline, you'll be more attuned to signs of mental illness: persistent changes in your child's everyday life that last more than a week or two.

Be aware of disruptions in sleep, appetite, grades, weight, friendships—even hygiene.

Maybe your son is spending even more time alone in his room. Perhaps your daughter, who is particular about her appearance, stops wearing makeup and isn't showering.

"It's really when you see kids falling off the curve in every sphere of their lives," Barnhorst says. "They're having problems with their academics, problems with their family, problems with their friends, and problems with their activities."

Essentially, take note when "there's a lot of shifting and chaos" in their lives, she adds.

Remember, you're looking for changes in many aspects of your child's life that last for a few weeks, not the typical—but temporary—sadness that comes with a breakup or the unfortunate mouthing off you get when you ask your kid to clean his room.

If your child still has the same friends and is participating in the same activities, unpleasant behavior "is not necessarily something to worry about," Barnhorst says. "That could just be teenagers going through growing pains."

But some behavioral changes could indicate a deeper problem. For instance, teenagers with depression may be more irritable than usual, Adelsheim says. They might snap at friends or even the family dog, he says.

"Young people will talk about their fuse being shorter than normal," Adelsheim says. "Things that normally wouldn't bother them do bother them."

When you become worried that your child's behavior may indicate something more serious, offer your child love and support—and seek help, experts say.

(And avoid phrases like "What's wrong with you?" and "Snap out of it" when talking with your kids, Niendam advises.)

If your child threatens suicide, or you think he's in imminent danger, take him to the emergency room.

If there's no immediate danger, start with your child's pediatrician or primary care physician. In some cases, the pediatrician will be able to address the problem directly—or may refer you to a mental health specialist.

This is where it could get tricky.

You may face a long wait for a specialist—especially if you live in a rural area—and may find that many aren't accepting new patients. Barnhorst suggests calling your health insurance plan and asking for a list of in-network therapists, psychologists and psychiatrists. Then hit the phone and hope for the best.

"One of the most serious problems we have in this country on the mental health front is the lack of access to care," says Dr. Victor Schwartz, chief medical officer of the Jed Foundation, a New York-based organization that works to prevent suicides in teens and young adults. "We haven't trained enough professionals. They're not distributed well enough across the country."

Another option, he says, is to check with nearby universities to see if they have mental health clinics that train students and see patients.

While you're seeking medical help, don't forget to contact your child's school, which may be able to make accommodations such as offering your child extra time for testing, Niendam says.

She also suggests connecting with your local chapter of NAMI California (namica.org), a grass-roots organization of people whose lives have been affected by serious mental illness.

"If you're struggling, you can meet other parents and ask their advice," she says.

ANTONIO GUILLEM/DREAMSTIME/TNS

Mental health experts say the first step in recognizing possible mental illness in your children is to know their habits and patterns—to spot when they deviate from them—and to create an environment where they feel comfortable talking with you.

6 tips to keep you motivated for exercise

DREAMSTIME/TNS

Exercise is good for your health. You probably have heard that before.

But finding the motivation to start or maintain an exercise program can be challenging. Mayo Clinic's Dr. Michael Joyner has six tips to help keep you moving.

Sometimes, it's hard to get off the couch and exercise.

"The important thing is to do something. And to also not permit what you cannot do—or what you're afraid of doing—to interfere with what you can do," Joyner says.

No.1: Again, start with what you can do.

"Whether it's walking, riding a bike, aerobic exercise in the pool."

No. 2: Don't think you have to run a marathon or be an elite athlete.

"People start to see benefits in terms of their health with as little as 10 to 15 minutes a day."

No. 3: Build exercise into your day. Take the stairs or park in the back of the parking lot.

No. 4: Schedule exercise into your day as if it were an appointment.

No. 5: Get a workout buddy.

And **No. 6,** which is key: ...

"... Don't set unrealistic goals and get into a cycle of, 'I'm not meeting my goals. I'm a failure; therefore, I'll stop.'"

And remember, anytime you exercise at any level, you're doing something good for your health. ***(Mayo Clinic News Network)***

Life & Style

2 dancers fired by NYC Ballet over nude photo accusations

NEW YORK (AP)—Two dancers were fired from the New York City Ballet on Saturday amid accusations that they were part of a ring of male dancers who inappropriately shared nude photos and videos of women.

The ballet company said principal dancers Amar Ramasar and Zachary Catarazo, as well as a third dancer, Chase Finlay, who resigned last month, "engaged in inappropriate communications, that while personal, off-hours and off-site, had violated the norms of conduct that NYCB expects from its employees."

The firings came after a woman who had dated Finley, Alexandra Waterbury, said in a lawsuit this month that Finlay had sent explicit videos and photos of her taken without her knowledge to other men including dancers with the company.

Waterbury charged in her lawsuit against City Ballet and Finlay that the company tolerated a "fraternity-like atmosphere" where male dancers understood that "they could degrade, demean, mistreat and abuse, assault and batter women without consequence."

The lawsuit said a male donor wrote to Finlay suggesting that the men should tie ballerinas up "and abuse them like farm animals," to which Finlay replied, "or like the sluts they are."

While denying that they had condoned inappropriate behavior, company officials began an investigation after they were made aware of Waterbury's charges and were planning to fire Finlay when he resigned, the company said.

Ramasar and Catarazo, who were identified in the lawsuit as having shared nude photos with Finlay, were initially suspended without pay before the company moved to terminate them Saturday.

"I am shocked and deeply saddened by the New York City Ballet's decision to fire me," Ramasar said Saturday in a statement. "I am an honest and honorable person, and have always treated everyone, including my colleagues, staff, friends and others at NYCB, with the upmost respect."

He said he was once a "poor, minority kid from the streets of the Bronx and have risen against all odds with hard work for everything I have been able to achieve." Ramasar added that in coming days, "I will be telling my side."

City Ballet executive director Katherine Brown and interim artistic team leader Jonathan Stafford said in a statement, "We have no higher obligation than to ensure that our dancers and staff have a workplace where they feel respected and valued, and we are committed to providing that environment for all employees of New York City Ballet. We will not allow the private actions of a few to undermine

David Hockney painting expected to break auction records

NEW YORK (AP) — One of David Hockney's famous "pool paintings" is coming to auction and is expected to sell in the $80 million range, easily breaking the record for a work by a living artist.

The British artist's "Portrait of an Artist (Pool with Two Figures)," to be auctioned at Christie's on Nov. 15, is considered one of his premier works. Christie's has estimated the work at about $80 million, but says it expects it to sell for more.

The previous record for a work by a living artist was set by Jeff Koons' "Balloon Dog," which sold for $58.4 million in 2013.

The 1972 painting by Hockney, now 81, is "the holy grail of his paintings, from both the historical and the market perspectives," said Alex Rotter, co-chairman of post-war and contemporary art at Christie's. He noted that it reflects both the European and the American perspectives of an artist who came to live in sunny California in the '60s, and saw himself as living on both continents.

"It has all the elements that you would want in a Hockney painting," Rotter said in an interview. He noted that writers have referred to the swimming pool as being sort of a self-portrait of Hockney, though he never confirmed that, just saying he was fascinated to paint moving water.

AP

This undated photo provided by Christie's Images Ltd. 2018, shows a painting by David Hockney entitled "Portrait of an Artist (Pool with Two Figures)." Christie's expects the painting to set a new record for a work by a living artist sold at auction, in their November 2018 sale. The previous record was held by Jeff Koons' "Balloon Dog," which sold for $58.4 million in 2013.

The painting has been held by a private collector, and "we have been trying to get it for a very long time," Rotter said.

A depiction of two men — one swimming the breaststroke underwater, the other standing by the pool looking down — the painting was originally inspired, according to background provided by Christie's, by two photographs Hockney found juxtaposed on his studio floor, one of a swimmer in Hollywood in 1966, and another of a boy staring at something on the ground.

Severely ill Pussy Riot member to be treated in Germany

MOSCOW (AP)—A member of Russia's Pussy Riot protest group says a severely ill fellow activist was being taken to Germany on Saturday for treatment after his suspected poisoning.

Maria Alekhina told The Associated Press that Pyotr Verzilov was being flown to Berlin, but she did not give details.

Independent news site Meduza reported that Verzilov's partner, Veronika Nikulshina, said a doctor from a Berlin clinic who is friends with the ill man's father suggested medical care outside Russia.

Verzilov was hospitalized in Moscow on Tuesday and had remained in intensive care, Pussy Riot members said this week. Alekhina told the AP he regained consciousness Friday.

She also said she thinks he was poisoned for political reasons.

Verzilov, Nikulshina and two other Pussy Riot members served 15-day jail sentences for running onto the Moscow field where soccer's World Cup final was being played in July. Their protest of what they described as the excessive powers of Russia's police briefly disrupted the match with a very large broadcast audience.

Verzilov's fell ill as new allegations arose over the March nerve-agent poisoning of a Russian former double agent and his daughter in the British city of Salisbury.

British authorities last week named two men—alleged to be agents of Russia's military intelligence service—in the poisoning of Sergei Skripal and his daughter, Yulia. The authorities showed surveillance-camera images of the pair in Salisbury.

The two men told Kremlin-funded satellite TV channel RT on Thursday they were in Salisbury only as tourists, to see the city's noted cathedral, and denied working for military intelligence.

Several Kremlin opponents have died from poisoning or suspected poisoning during the past 15 years. Alexander Litvinenko, a former member of Russia's domestic security service, succumbed slowly in London after ingesting a radioactive isotope in 2006. He fell ill hours after meeting with two Russians whom Britain claimed were the assassins.

Journalist Anna Politkovskaya, a fierce critic of President Vladimir Putin, became sick after drinking tea on an Aeroflot flight in 2004. She was travelling to southern Russia to try to help negotiate the Beslan crisis in which Chechen militants took hundreds of schoolchildren hostage.

Poison was mentioned as a possible cause of her symptoms. Politkovskaya survived, and was shot to death in the elevator of her apartment building two years later.

Celebs turn out to help Rihanna's fourth Diamond Ball shine bright

NEW YORK (AP)—Rihanna's Diamond Ball shined in its fourth year and continued to make a name as one of the industry's white-hot and must-attend parties—all while raising nearly $6 million for charity.

Rihanna

The pop star, fashionista and makeup mogul held the black-tie gala for her Clara Lionel Foundation on Thursday in New York City, where Childish Gambino performed and Tiffany Haddish bid $75,000 on earrings.

The "Girls Trip" superstar, per usual, was in an electrifying mood at Cipriani Wall Street. When the Chopard earrings were being auctioned, the recent Emmy winner told her competition: "Let me have something in this world." The earrings were valued at $112,000.

Haddish watched Gambino, who performed "This Is America," "3005" and more songs, like a die-hard fan right in front of the stage, even yelling her catch phrase—"she ready"—while the Emmy-winning "Atlanta" actor performed his Grammy-winning soul anthem, "Redbone."

Issa Rae, the Emmy and Golden Globe-nominated creator of HBO's "Insecure," hosted the event and happily told the audience: "Rihanna knows my name y'all!"

Trevor Noah, Odell Beckham Jr., Brian Tyree Henry, Paris Hilton, Normani, Meek Mill and A$AP Rocky were among the famous faces who attended the event for Rihanna's organization, which promotes education and arts globally and assists emergency response programs. The 30-year-old singer started the foundation in 2012 and named it after her grandparents, Clara and Lionel Braithwaite.

"In the past I've wanted to support so many causes and you go to one foundation for this and one foundation for that. And I don't think it's fair to turn your back on someone else who needs help just because it doesn't fit into the bracket of your mold. And I don't think charities should be molded like that— not for me anyways," she said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Some people, it works for them, but for me personally, I couldn't sleep knowing that I can't help someone with AIDS because my charity's about cancer. Everybody needs help, you don't even know what that means, it could be schools supplies, it could be something as light as that. But we would always, always reach out and support, so this going to be an ever-growing charity."

The Clara Lionel Foundation, which has supported those affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Maria, has set a goal to raise $25 million for an emergency response fund by next year's Diamond Ball. The organization also has a scholarship fund as well as an oncology and nuclear medicine center in Barbados, where Rihanna was born and raised.

Seth Meyers surprised the audience when he showed up to help with the live auction. Other attendees included Gucci Mane, Teyana Taylor, La La Anthony, Fabolous, Gayle King, Nipsey Hussle, Skylar Diggins, Justine Skye and DJ Mustard, who performed after Gambino.

Hugh Evans, the CEO of Global Citizen, received the 2018 Diamond Ball Award.

Ariana Grande laments late ex Mac Miller as 'sweetest soul'

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Ariana Grande posted a tribute Friday to her ex-boyfriend Mac Miller a week after the hip-hop star's death, saying she's sorry she couldn't save the "sweetest soul" who for so long was her "dearest friend."

Grande posted a video of Miller laughing on her Instagram page Friday, and shared her first words on his death.

She writes, "i adored you from the day i met you when i was nineteen and i always will. i can't believe you aren't here anymore," and goes on to say "i'm so mad, i'm so sad i don't know what to do. you were my dearest friend. for so long."

Paramedics found the 26-year-old Miller unresponsive in his Los Angeles home on Sept. 7 and declared him dead soon after. An autopsy has been performed, but no cause has been announced.

He spoke frankly of his struggles with depression and substance abuse in his music.

Miller and the 25-year-old Grande, who is now engaged to "Saturday Night Live" star Pete Davidson, were in a two-year relationship that ended earlier this year.

She posted a wordless black and white photo of him on her Instagram post last weekend, but had not made any statements.

She ends Friday's Instagram post by saying "above anything else, i'm so sorry i couldn't fix or take your pain away. i really wanted to. the kindest, sweetest soul with demons he never deserved. i hope you're okay now. rest."

AP

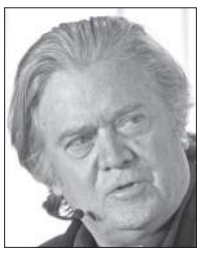
In this July 13, 2013, file photo, Rapper Mac Miller performs on his Space Migration Tour at Festival Pier in Philadelphia.

Steve Bannon: Time's Up is most powerful political movement

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's former chief strategist says he's surprised the #MeToo movement hasn't had more impact on corporate America.

Steve Bannon says he thinks Time's Up is "the single most powerful potential political movement in the world."

Bannon spoke Saturday in New York during an ideas festival sponsored by The Economist. His comments came the same week Les Moonves (MOON'-vehz) stepped down as head of CBS Corp. and the network fired "60 Minutes" executive producer Jeff Fager. Both men deny sexual misconduct allegations against them.



Bannon

Asked about Time's Up, Bannon said: "I'm quite shocked that the #MeToo movement hasn't cut through corporate America with a bigger scythe, because I think there's a lot of potential there."

Time's Up is a movement against sexual harassment that Hollywood celebrities created last year.

Mexico vies for best foreign film Oscar with Cuaron's 'Roma'

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The ninth time may be the charm for Mexico at the Oscars. The Mexican film academy announced Friday that it has chosen "Roma," by Alfonso Cuaron, as its bid for a best foreign language film nomination.

"Roma," which won the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival, is a deeply personal film for the director of "Gravity" and "Children of Men." It is Cuaron's first in Spanish and first filmed in his native country since his 2001 breakthrough "Y Tu Mama Tambien."

Mexico has competed for the trophy eight times, most recently in 2011 with "Biutiful" by Alejandro G. Inarritu, but has never won.

"Roma," with Oscar-winner Cuaron also serving as cinematographer, will be available on Netflix this December.

Academy Award nominations will be announced on Jan. 22.

This image released by Netflix shows filmmaker Alfonso Cuaron on the set of "Roma." AP

Anchor who called Trump a white supremacist leaving ESPN

BRISTOL, Conn. (AP)— Outspoken ESPN personality Jemele Hill announced Friday that she is leaving the company after 12 years as a commentator, anchor, reporter and writer.

Hill attracted attention last year and was briefly suspended for opinionated messages on social media, including a tweet that referenced President Donald Trump as a "white supremacist who has largely surrounded himself w/ other white supremacists."

She also targeted Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones after he stated that players who disrespect the flag would not play for his team. Her suspension came after she tweeted that fans who disagree with Jones should target the team's advertisers and not buy the team's merchandise.

Hill posted on social media that Friday would be her last day at ESPN.

"This was the place where I became the best version of myself, both personally and professionally," she wrote. "However, the time has come for me to begin a new chapter in my life."

Hill became a rising star at ESPN while hosting the opinion-based talk show "His & Hers" with Michael Smith.

Smith and Hill were later tapped to host a personality-driven 6 p.m. edition of the network's signature "SportsCenter" program.

She left that role in January and went to work primarily for The Undefeated, a company website that concentrates on issues of sports, race and culture.

Connor Schell, ESPN's executive vice president for content, issued a statement praising Hill as "an exceptionally talented writer, storyteller host and commentator whose unique voice has made ESPN's many platforms better over the last 12 years."

"As she moves forward into the next phase of her career, with the desire to produce content outside of sports, we wish her the best and thank her for her work," he said.

Hill has not announced her post-ESPN plans.

Wife is blindsided by news of husband's past romance

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Bill," and I have been happily married for 22 years and have two very active, beautiful children. Our oldest daughter has been playing on a traveling soccer team for the last five years. Bill and I go all over the country to watch her play and have become very close to the head coach, "Marla," and her family.

I recently learned through another parent that Bill dated Marla for three years prior to us getting married. This parent informed me the relationship between Bill and Marla was so serious they had discussed marriage.

When I heard it, I was very upset. I couldn't understand why my husband would keep that information from me all this time. When I asked him, he said it was true, but he hadn't felt it had been necessary to tell me.

Bill hasn't always been the greatest communicator, but I think this has crossed the line. I feel I have been misled and lied to. He acted as if he had never even met her. It makes me wonder how many other secrets he's hiding from me.

I'm having a hard time trusting him now, and I feel there's something seriously wrong with our relationship. I'm also uncomfortable around Marla and her family. I wonder if her husband knows about their relationship. Do I have the right to be upset about this situation?

KEPT IN THE DARK

DEAR KEPT: You have the right to be upset—and angry —about the deception. If you want to know if Marla's husband knows what went on between her and your husband, ask her. Perhaps she can fill you in on what else your husband "forgot" to mention.

Bill appears to have a large character flaw, and the two of you appear to have a serious communication problem. Before this damages your marriage further, you and Bill should schedule some sessions with a licensed marriage and family therapist. If he stonewalls or refuses to go with you, go without him.

DEAR ABBY: My aunt and uncle from another state still send me a birthday check every year for my birthday, which is generous and thoughtful of them. While the sum is not large, I feel it is not necessary, and it makes me uncomfortable. I'm in my late 20s now and have a good job with a good income.

How do I politely tell them that while I appreciate their kindness, it is not necessary to send their adult niece a check every year? I'm not particularly close with them and am afraid of offending.

UNCOMFORTABLE IN MICHIGAN

DEAR UNCOMFORTABLE: From your description of your aunt and uncle, they are thoughtful, caring people, so when you talk to them, express your gratitude for their generosity. Then suggest that because you are now an adult, with a good job and a good income, you think it might be time to consider exchanging only greeting cards on special occasions. Of course, this means you will be sending them cards for their birthdays, anniversary and Christmas, if you don't already do it.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

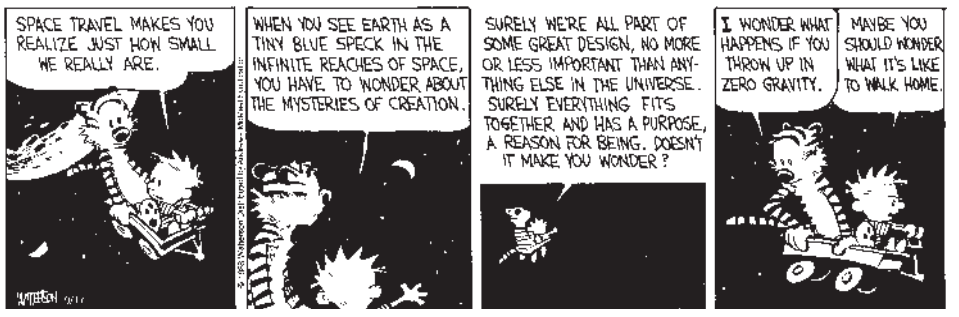
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

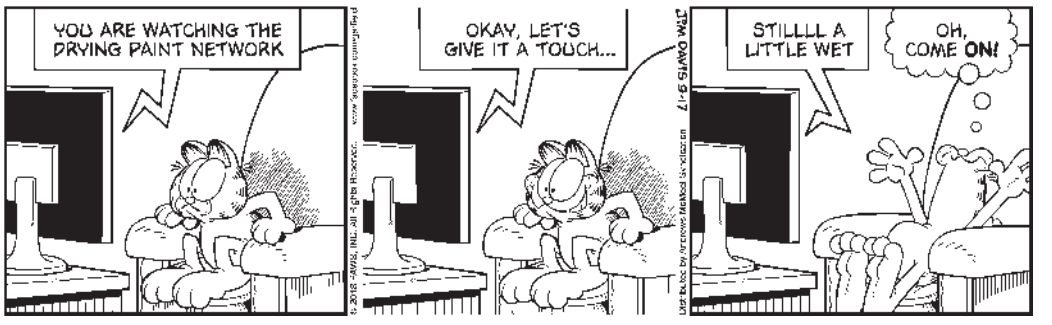
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


SPACE TRAVEL MAKES YOU REALIZE JUST HOW SMALL WE REALLY ARE.
WHEN YOU SEE EARTH AS A TINY BLUE SPECK IN THE INFINITE REACHES OF SPACE, YOU HAVE TO WONDER ABOUT THE MYSTERIES OF CREATION.
SURELY WE'RE ALL PART OF SOME GREAT DESIGN, NO MORE OR LESS IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THE UNIVERSE. SURELY EVERYTHING FITS TOGETHER AND HAS A PURPOSE, A REASON FOR BEING. DOESN'T IT MAKE YOU WONDER?
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU THROW UP IN ZERO GRAVITY.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD WONDER WHAT IT'S LIKE TO WALK HOME.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DAD? WHERE DO YOU KEEP THE CAR WAX? AND THAT TIRE SHINE SPRAY?
WAIT... YOU'RE GONNA WASH ONE OF THE CARS? WITHOUT ME ASKING?
I THOUGHT I'D WASH UP THE OL' MATCHBOX CAR COLLECTION.
SIGH.
ALSO, DO WE HAVE A TINY LITTLE BUFFING TOOL?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

FRANKLY, YOU'RE NOT QUALIFIED TO BE HIRED AS AN EXECUTIVE MAKING $100,000 A YEAR.
BUT I CAN OFFER YOU A JOB MORE SUITED TO SOMEONE LIKE YOURSELF.
IT'S GOT TO MEET MY STANDARDS. WHAT IS IT?
A 6-PACK TO WASH MY CADILLAC.
I'LL GRAB A SPONGE.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Actor Sharif
5 Likely
8 Cornfield intruder
12 Melon variety
14 Peregrinate
15 California city
16 Apple tablet
17 Mimic
18 Caravan mammals
20 Mends, as socks
23 Takeout order?
24 Redact
25 Summer footwear
28 Eggy quaff
29 "West Side Story" role
30 Dig in
32 Wood-smoothing tools
34 Nick and Nora's pet
35 An apple —
36 Big name in racing
37 Free of danger
40 MGM motto start
41 Russian river
42 Hero, for one
47 Naked
48 Sly suggestion
49 Coaster
50 Ultra-modernist
51 April forecast

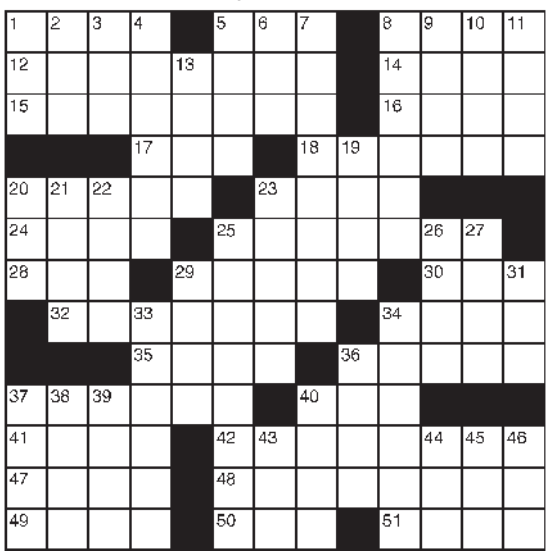
DOWN

1 Surprised cries
2 Extinct bird
3 New England cape
4 Stinging insect
5 "Zip- — -Doo-Dah"
6 Wooden pin
7 Worth of some opinions?
8 Yalta's peninsula
9 Lariat
10 Ellipse
11 Marries
13 Shrill barks
19 Emmy-winner Alan
20 Lair
21 Big fusses
22 Latvia's capital
23 Grocery section
25 Enters secretly
26 Minus
27 Fill fully
29 Tosses in
31 Sailor
33 Executed perfectly
34 Retort
36 Pakistani language
37 Worn-down pencils
38 Spoken
39 Exceptional
40 Part of A.D.
43 Hydrocarbon suffix
44 — bind
45 Roman 401
46 Sweetie

Solution time: 26 mins.

F	A	D		A	B	I			H	A	T	S
A	N	I		P	O	C	O		E	B	O	N
R	E	A	C	H	O	U			A	B	R	A
		S	U	I	T			O	R	A	N	G
T	A	P	E	D		S	M	U				
E	G	O	S		P	E	A	C	H	P	I	E
S	E	H		P	O	A	C	H		E	C	O
T	F	A	C	H	F	R	S		S	T	A	N
			H	A	M	S		S	H	U	N	S
F	L	O	U	T			J	O	A	N		
L	I	A	M		L	E	A	C	H	I	N	G
A	M	F	M		O	I	N	K		A	A	A
N	O	S	Y		O	N	E	S		S	P	Y

Last Friday's Answer 09-17



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Danielle Brooks, 29; Jimmie Johnson, 43; Doug E. Fresh, 52; Kyle Chandler, 53.

Happy Birthday: Don't take anything for granted this year. Live in the moment and plan your actions with precision. Invest more in yourself and what you need to do to get ahead or to gain peace of mind. Take part in events and activities that will broaden your awareness and help you gain perspective regarding what you can do to improve your life. Your numbers are 5, 11, 21, 23, 26, 38, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Keep busy, don't leave anything unfinished and most of all, try not to get into an emotional discussion with someone who doesn't share your opinions. Make positive changes that will boost your morale and raise your confidence. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Bring it on, make things happen and do your own thing. Plenty is within reach, so don't waste your time getting annoyed. Spend more time following your dreams. Personal gains, romance and positive actions should be your priorities. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Don't take anything or anyone for granted. A money matter won't turn out as expected. Stay on top of what others do and how your money is spent. Youngsters or someone who wants something from you will try to manipulate you. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Do things differently for a change. Let routine slip and try something new. You will enrich your life. Your imagination will take you on a journey that leads to adventure and a greater appreciation for life, love and longevity. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Follow your heart and make a point to engage in something that will fire you up and bring out the passion that will help you bring about change. Be who you are, not what someone else wants you to be. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Take a trip down memory lane and you'll discover something wonderful about the life you live. Don't be fooled by those trying to make you feel flawed or those using emotional tactics to manipulate you. Love yourself for who you are. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You'll gain strength through doing things for yourself. Don't wait for someone to push you or use sarcasm to goad you into doing what you signed up for. A change will do you good and encourage you to try harder. 2 stars

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Strength is an attribute you have in spades. Take hold of whatever situation you face and use your skills and experience to bring about positive change. Helping others will in turn bring you good fortune and well-deserved opportunities. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take a look around before you make a move. Someone will feed you false information or try to charm you into something you should probably walk away from. Trust only in yourself and what you know to be factual. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Focus on positive changes, improvements at home and at work and doing whatever you can to simplify your life. Don't let anger consume you or cause you to make a mistake that can end in physical or emotional injury. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Protect against insult, injury or poor choices. Don't be a follower. Be brave enough to set your own path and to say no to those trying to coerce you into something that can set you back physically, financially or emotionally. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You've got all the right moves, so what's the holdup? Trust and believe in what you are capable of doing. Set your standards high and live up to your expectations. Show strength and courage moving forward. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, practical and courageous. You are adaptable and popular.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		5			4			
		1	9		8	2		
	8		3		5	1	7	
4	7			6	3			
	2	1				3	9	
			2	5			6	4
8	9	2		7		6		
	5	6		2	4			
		3			9			

Difficulty Level ★ 9/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

3	1	8	4	9	7	5	6	2
4	7	9	5	6	2	1	3	8
5	2	6	1	3	8	4	7	9
6	3	2	8	4	9	7	5	1
7	9	5	3	2	1	6	8	4
8	4	1	7	5	6	9	2	3
2	5	3	6	1	4	8	9	7
1	6	7	9	8	3	2	4	5
9	8	4	2	7	5	3	1	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LONGEVITY Solution: 9 letters

P	G	N	I	E	B	L	L	E	W	I	S	D	O	M
O	N	Y	A	L	P	H	E	A	L	T	H	E	O	I
S	I	L	E	L	Y	T	S	E	F	I	L	O	N	N
I	G	I	T	D	E	H	R	E	M	E	D	Y	O	E
T	A	M	R	N	A	A	D	U	L	A	E	D	I	R
I	C	A	O	P	A	E	R	O	B	I	C	T	T	A
V	T	F	P	E	X	T	E	N	T	R	N	E	N	L
E	I	Y	P	Y	B	B	O	H	F	E	I	T	E	Q
S	V	C	U	A	Ⓓ	I	C	R	I	S	A	A	T	U
I	E	U	S	Ⓘ	T	A	I	R	L	G	G	T	T	A
C	T	L	Ⓔ	A	R	E	T	E	S	O	C	I	A	L
R	P	Ⓣ	C	E	N	U	E	L	P	A	V	D	R	I
E	A	U	E	D	N	P	N	A	A	L	N	E	C	T
X	D	R	A	L	I	V	E	X	N	S	A	M	E	Y
E	A	E	L	I	M	S	G	M	E	D	I	C	A	L

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Active, Adapt, Aerobic, Aging, Alive, Attention, Career, Culture, Diet, Education, Exercise, Extent, Family, Friend, Gain, Genetic, Goals, Happy, Health, Hobby, Hydrate, Ideal, Learn, Lifestyle, Love, Medical, Meditate, Mineral, Mood, Nutrient, Play, Positive, Quality, Read, Relax, Remedy, Sleep, Smile, Social, Span, Support, Well-being, Wisdom

Last Friday's Answer: Herbs

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

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GARAPAN, SAIPAN

(1) DRIVER
(1) COOK

Email application at:
merchant.thompson@yahoo.com

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BEATO MENDIOLA CALVO, Diseased.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0304

(PROPOSED) ORDER CONTINUING HEARING

FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, the hearing on Petition For Letters of Administration is continued to Thursday, October 25, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

SO ORDERED this September 12, 2018.

/s/ JOSEPH N. CAMACHO,
Associate Judge

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Mail: PO Box 501969 Saipan MP 96950
Phone: 234-5684
Fax: 234-5683
E-Mail: cnmi@pacificlawyers.law

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JAMES CAMACHO BOWIE, and LINDA MANAHANE BOWIE, Plaintiffs, vs. APEX CONSTRUCTION, INC., et al., Defendants.) Civil Action. No. 13-0092 NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: APEX CONSTRUCTION, INC.

A hearing for Plaintiffs' motion to enter a final default judgment against Apex Construction pursuant to N.M.I. R. Civ. P. 55(b)(2) is hereby scheduled on **September 26, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.,** before Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja.

Dated this 14th day of September, 2018.

O'CONNOR BERMAN HOREY & BANES
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

/s/ Joseph E. Horey
By: Joseph H. Horey (F0194)

3753-01-180914-PL-M for judgment by default vs apex- N 2

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: September 17, 2018 • **CLOSING DATE:** October 02, 2018
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary:
2018-011	Accounting Clerk	PL23-4 to PL23-07 $19,272.74 to $22,302.94-per annum

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to jjmuna@nmhc.gov.mp. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

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Join the G4S team where our Values of Integrity, Respect, Safety, Security, Service Excellence, Innovation and Teamwork are the foundation of how we operate. We are seeking candidates to fill the following position in CNMI:

- **Security Officers**
  Protect customer's interests & conduct numerous security patrols of industrial, commercial & residential locations

If you are hired for any of the positions above, you will receive a $100.00 Sign-On Bonus. After 3 months of successfully working for G4S, you will receive another $100.00!

No prior experience necessary! We only require you to possess a high school graduate diploma/certificate (or its equivalent) and be able to pass the G4S background requirements.

Competitive salary and benefits available!

Please submit resumes to: **hr@gu.g4s.com**
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G4S is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Employer

PLACE YOUR ADVERT HERE!

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

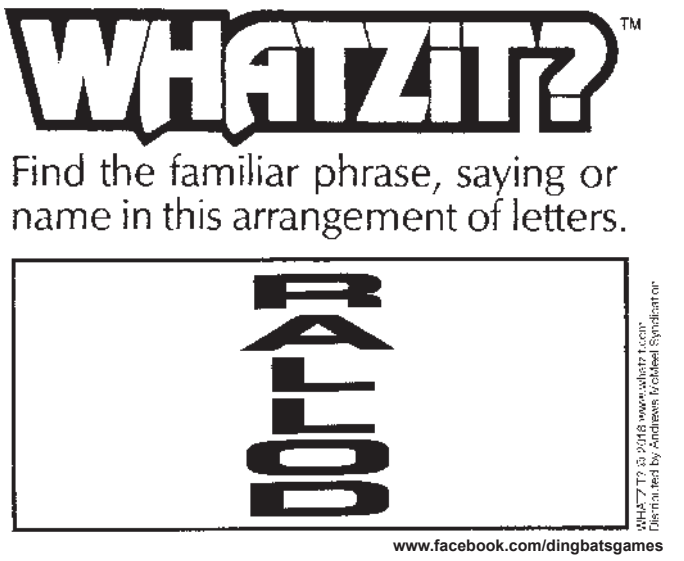
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find today's solution in classified section

Canelo dethrones Triple G in another close call

AP

Mexico's Canelo Alvarez, left, lands a punch on WBC/WBA middleweight champion Gennady Golovkin of Khazakstan during their title boxing fight at T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018. Alvarez took Glolovkin's WBC/WBA titles by majority decision.

LAS VEGAS (AP)— Canelo Alvarez and Gennady Golovkin fought 24 rounds in the space of a year, with little to pick between them.

When the scorecards were totaled Saturday night, though, the judges crowned a new middleweight champion of the world—but just barely.

Alvarez won the 160-pound titles held by Golovkin by the narrowest of margins, taking a majority decision to hand the longtime champion his first loss as a pro in a spirited fight that had a sold out crowd roaring.

Two judges gave Alvarez the final round, allowing him to pull out the win.

A year after the two fought to a draw, the second fight was almost as close. There were no knockdowns, but the action was spirited throughout as the two battled to the final bell before a frenzied crowd at the T-Mobile Arena.

Two judges favored Alvarez 115-113, while a third had it 114-114. The AP scored it 114-114.

"He's a great fighter but I'm a great fighter and I showed it tonight," Alvarez said.

The two fighters switched roles from their first fight, with Triple G trying to counter Alvarez and the Mexican fighter coming forward much of the fight. Both landed well to the head and Golovkin (38-1-1) controlled some rounds with his jab though neither were ever in any trouble of going down.

The fight was a rematch of a draw last September that left neither fighter satisfied. This time it was Golovkin who was upset, and he stormed out of the ring without talking.

"I'm not going to say who won tonight because the victory belongs to Canelo according to the judges," Golovkin said later from his dressing room. "I thought it was a very good fight for the fans and very exciting. I thought I fought better than he did."

Ringside punch stats showed a close fight, though they favored Golovkin by a small margin. Golovkin was credited with landing 234 of 879 punches while Alvarez (50-1-2) landed 203 of 622.

"We had a great fight, the one we expected the first time around," said Abel Sanchez, Golovkin's trainer. "I had it close going into the 12th round. We had good judges who saw it from different angles—I can't complain about the decision, but it's close enough to warrant a third fight."

Almost immediately there was talk of a third fight between two middleweights who now know each other well.

"If the people want us to do it again let's do it again," Alvarez said. "For now I'm going to enjoy it with my family."

"Under the right conditions, yes," Golovkin said of a rematch.

Alvarez seemed to take control of the fight in the middle rounds, using sharp punches to batter Golovkin, who seemed to slow down from his pace earlier in the fight.

"We're losing the fight!" Sanchez told Golovkin after the eighth round.

But Triple G came on strong in the final few rounds to make it as close as it could be. Golovkin landed several big punches to start the 12th round but still lost it on the two scorecards that ended up favoring Alvarez.

Both fighters were cut with Alvarez having one over his left eye and Golovkin cut over the right eye.

It was the first loss in 40 fights for Golovkin, the fearsome puncher from Kazakhstan who held portions of the middleweight title for seven years and hadn't lost since the 2005 amateur world championships. And it came at the hands of the red-headed Alvarez, a Mexican star whose positive test for clenbuterol forced the rematch to be postponed from May.

They put on another show before a roaring crowd of 21,965, who crowded into the arena on the Las Vegas Strip with high anticipation in the biggest fight of the year.

Most of the crowd on Mexican Independence Day weekend favored Alvarez, who seemed to control much of the pace of the fight even while taking some sharp shots to the head. Though Golovkin has a reputation as a knockout artist, he never seemed to hurt Alvarez, who credited his fight plan with the win.

"I showed my victory with facts," Alvarez said. "He was the one who was backing up. It was a clear victory."

Alvarez said in the days leading to the fight that he went to bed every night visualizing a knockout. He seemed to want to follow up on his prediction, stalking Triple G at times, but never seemed to really hurt him.

Alvarez was guaranteed $5 million to $4 million for Golovkin, though both fighters were expected to make many millions more from the biggest pay-per-view in boxing so far this year.

Mayweather will return and fight Pacquiao again

LAS VEGAS (AP)— Floyd Mayweather Jr. says he's coming out of retirement again to fight Manny Pacquiao for a second time in December.

Mayweather posted a video on Instagram early Saturday that showed him and Pacquiao together, reportedly in Japan, jawing at each other over a possible second fight.

"I'm coming back to fight Manny Pacquiao this year," Mayweather said. "Another nine-figure pay day on the way."

Whether the fight actually happens remains to be seen. There are no promotional barriers between the two men, because Mayweather promotes himself and Pacquiao is a boxing free agent.

Oddsmakers at the Westgate Las Vegas Superbook immediately made Mayweather a 2-1 favorite.

Mayweather defeated Pacquiao in May 2015 in a massively hyped fight that was largely panned by most boxing fans. The bout delivered a record 4.6 million pay-per-view buys, and Pacquiao blamed an injured shoulder for landing only 81 punches in the fight.

Mayweather, who has won all 50 of his fights, last fought a year ago when he stopped Conor McGregor, the UFC star who was in his first professional boxing match. The 41-year-old Mayweather reportedly made more than $200 million for that fight, on top of a reported $300 million for his win over Pacquiao.

Pacquiao, the Filipino star who will be 40 in December, lost to unheralded Jeff Horn last year before rebounding with a win over Lucas Matthysse in Malaysia last month.

Representatives for the two fighters could not immediately be reached for comment

Bjorn excited to see Tiger Woods in Ryder Cup

EVIAN-LES-BAINS, France (AP)—Tiger Woods returning to the United States team after a six-year absence will make golf's showdown even better, according to Europe's Ryder Cup captain Thomas Bjorn.

"He brings so much greatness to the game of golf," Bjorn told The Associated Press in an interview Saturday, two weeks before the action in France.

A runner-up finish at the PGA Championship last month behind Ryder Cup teammate Brooks Koepka ensured a resurgent 42-year-old Woods won selection from Bjorn's counterpart Jim Furyk.

It's an eighth Ryder Cup appearance, and the first since 2012, for Woods whose only win was in 1999. He has a losing record overall though won four of seven duels in singles.

"For such a big event you want big personalities, big profiles. I'm excited about seeing that American team. I'm excited about seeing Tiger back in the fold," Bjorn said in France at the Evian Championship women's major.

The Sept. 28-30 event at Le Golf National in the southwest suburbs of Paris is a rare chance for French fans to watch Woods close up.

How Furyk chooses to use Woods is not open to speculation by Europe's captain. Bjorn, who won all three Ryder Cups he played in, was a vice captain in 2004 and saw an opening day Woods-Phil Mickelson pairing backfire at Oakland Hills with two losses.

"Whatever (Tiger) brings to the American team, and all that, that's for the Americans to answer and Jim to deal with," Bjorn said. "I focus on our 12 and what they do."

Instead, the 47-year-old Dane is "quite excited" about his five rookies — compatriot Thorbjorn Olesen, Jon Rahm, Tyrrell Hatton, Tommy Fleetwood and Alex Noren.

"I think they're a great bunch of guys and they've proven themselves on the world stage," Bjorn said.

Lacking Ryder Cup play, they combine for more experience than the Americans of the par-71 Albatros course. It has hosted the French Open on the European Tour for more than 25 years.

Noren won there in July, as did Fleetwood for the 2017 edition. In 2014, Koepka missed the cut—as did Bjorn—when the now three-time major winner was an unheralded member of the European Tour.

"It's a nice thing that we know it well but if it's a big advantage? I don't think so," said Bjorn. "When you take the best players in the world and put them on any golf course they are going to find a way round it."

Once a top-10 player, Bjorn's own game has declined during an intense 20 months of preparation for his team. He is ranked No. 847 but that does not matter now.

"I lead from behind and I push them forward," Bjorn said of his players. "It's their moment to shine. It's their Ryder Cup."

"I've never met a player yet who doesn't get surprised about how great it is. I think they all will react really well to it."

Indians clinch 3rd straight AL Central title

CLEVELAND (AP)— Unchallenged for months, the Cleveland Indians clinched their third straight AL Central title with a 15-0 blowout on Saturday of the Detroit Tigers, who made four errors and managed only two hits.

Francisco Lindor and Michael Brantley connected for back-to-back homers in the first inning off Michael Fulmer (3-12), Jose Ramirez had three hits and the Indians built an 11-0 lead after two on the way to becoming the first team to clinch a division championship.

It's the initial step toward an October when Cleveland will try to win its first World Series since 1948—the longest drought in the majors. After so many close calls, the Indians believe this is their year.

Cleveland's current three-year reign in the Central is the club's longest since winning five straight from 1995-99. The Indians became the first team this year to clinch a division and the second assured of the postseason after Boston, which will be no worse than a wild card.

Mike Clevinger (12-8) allowed one hit in six innings, and Yonder Alonso added a two-run homer as Cleveland's offense awakened from a late-season slump.

AP

Cleveland Indians' Yonder Alonso slides safely into home plate as Detroit Tigers catcher James McCann looks for the ball in the first inning of a baseball game, Saturday, Sept.15, 2018, in Cleveland.

Red Sox 5, Mets 3

In Boston, pinch-hitter Brock Holt drove a tiebreaking double off the Green Monster on the first pitch after Jackie Bradley Jr. hit one off the very top of the left-field wall, helping Boston lower its magic number to four.

Rick Porcello (17-7) earned his 10th straight interleague victory, pitching five innings of two-hit ball as the Red Sox improved their major league-best record to 102-47. Steve Pearce had three hits for Boston, and Craig Kimbrel pitched the ninth for his 41st save.

The Mets, who had won four straight, took a 3-1 lead on Brandon Nimmo's three-run homer in the fourth. With two on in the fifth, Bradley lined a ball that bounced off the top edge of the wall and up, back toward the field. Although the umpires signaled for him to circle the bases, Bradley was sent back to second base when replays showed it didn't completely clear the red line that signifies a homer.

Paul Sewald (0-6) intentionally walked Rafael Devers, Drew Smith replaced Sewald, Holt hit for Sandy Leon and, on the first pitch, lined one off the Monster in left-center to score both runners and make it 5-3.

Boston's 102 wins is third-most in franchise history, passing the 1915 World Series championship team.

Dodgers 17, Cardinals 4

In St. Louis, Yasiel Puig homered three times and had a career-high seven RBIs, giving him five homers in two games, and Los Angeles moved ahead of St. Louis into sole possession of the second National League wild card.

Puig hit a solo homer in the fourth off John Gant (7-6) and three-run drives in the fifth against Mike Mayers and in the seventh versus Luke Weaver. Puig raised his season total to 21 homers with the first three-homer game of his major league career. He became the fourth Dodgers hitter since 2000 with consecutive multi-homer games after Cody Bellinger, Adrian Beltre, and Shawn Green.

Nationals 7, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Washington 19-year-old rookie Juan Soto become the youngest player to steal three bases in a game, had an RBI single and scored the tiebreaking run as Washington stopped Atlanta's season-best, six-game winning streak.

Soto hit an RBI single in the first inning and stole second, then walked in the fourth, stole two bases and came home on a bases-loaded walk for a 2-1 lead. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, he surpassed the mark set by Oakland's Rickey Henderson at 20 years, 241 days on Aug. 23, 1979, against Cleveland,

Soto also extended his on-base streak to 20 consecutive games, one night after joining Hall of Famers Mel Ott, Mickey Mantle and Al Kaline as the only teenagers to reach safely in 19 straight.

Cubs 1, Reds 0

In Chicago, Jon Lester allowed two hits over seven innings with a season-high nine strikeouts, Willson Contreras hit a run-scoring single in the sixth inning and Chicago maintained its NL Central lead.

Seeking their third straight division title, the Cubs moved 2 ½ games ahead of second-place Milwaukee, which lost 3-1 to Pittsburgh. Chicago has won three straight and four of five.

Lester (16-6) is 4-1 with a 1.73 ERA in his last six starts, following a mid-season slump.

Blue Jays 8, Yankees 7

In New York, CC Sabathia got clocked early and New York, despite hitting four home runs during a furious rally, kept wobbling toward a playoff spot in a loss to Toronto.

Didi Gregorius hit a solo homer with the Yankees down 5-0 in the sixth inning. It was 8-1 in the seventh before Gregorius and Giancarlo Stanton homered and Miguel Andujar launched a grand slam.

New York maintained its 1½-game lead over Oakland for the top AL wild-card slot. The Athletics lost to Tampa Bay 7-5. The Yankees are just 6-7 this month.

Rays 7, Athletics 5

In St. Petersburg, Jake Bauers hit a three-run homer off Jeurys Familia in the eighth inning to help the Tampa Bay slow playoff-chasing Oakland.

Oakland remains 1 ½ games behind the Yankees for the top AL wild card after New York lost to Toronto earlier in the day. The A's have dropped two of three since winning six straight.

Bauers' homer was just the second allowed by Familia (4-2) since he was acquired by Oakland on July 21 from the Mets. Bauers busted a 4-for-65 slump with three hits and four RBIs.

White Sox 2, Orioles 0

In Baltimore, Reynaldo Lopez was sharp over seven innings to continue his late-season surge and lift the Chicago to just its sixth winning streak of at least three games.

The 24-year-old Lopez (6-9) has a 1.10 ERA over his past five starts. He struck out six and allowed four hits and a walk this time to help Chicago to just its sixth winning streak of at least three games.

Yolmer Sanchez broke a scoreless tie with an RBI double in the sixth, chasing rookie Yefry Ramirez (1-6) from his longest big league outing with two outs.

Royals 10, Twins 3

In Kansas City, Ian Kennedy pitched six innings to earn his first win since the first week of April, Alex Gordon drove in five runs and Royals won for the fifth time in six games.

Alcides Escobar added three RBIs while finishing a homer shy of the cycle, and Cam Gallagher ended a 0-for-14 skid with a career-best four hits.

Kennedy (2-8) allowed six hits while striking out four in his second start since a two-month stint on the disabled list. The right-hander allowed only Ehire Adrianza's RBI single in the second and Logan Forsythe's run-scoring hit in the fifth to earn his second home win in two years.

Phillies 5, Marlins 4

In Philadelphia, Cesar Hernandez hit a go-ahead, three-run home run in the fifth, seven relievers combined on seven shutout innings and Philadelphia picked up its second win over Miami after a five-game losing streak.

Philadelphia overcame a 4-0 deficit and closed within 6½ games of first-place Atlanta in the NL East with 15 games left. The Phillies remained five games back for the NL's second wild-card spot.

JT Riddle had a pair of doubles and three RBIs for the Marlins, who have lost five straight and at 57-91 are trying to avoid what would be only the third 100-loss season in team history.

Pirates 3, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, Zach Davies failed to hold an early lead and gave up a go-ahead double to Francisco Cervelli in the fourth inning that lifted Pittsburgh.

Milwaukee lost for just the fourth time in 15 games and dropped 2½ games behind the NL Central-leading Chicago Cubs. The Brewers' lead for the NL's top wild card was cut to three games over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Christian Yelich reached 30 homers for the first time when he connected in the first off Ivan Nova (9-9).

Colin Moran hit a tying homer in the second. Pittsburgh scored its final run in the sixth when Starling Marte doubled and came around when Josh Bell stole his first base since June 22 last year, and catcher Erik Kratz's throwing bounced into center field for an error.

Cervelli and Pirates manager Clint Hurdle were ejected.

Astros 10, Diamondbacks 4

In Houston, George Springer had four hits and scored three runs to help Houston extend its lead in the AL West.

The Astros managed 12 hits—including 10 singles—and drew seven walks. Coupled with Oakland's 7-5 loss at Tampa Bay, the Astros extended their lead to 3 1/2 games over the Athletics in the division with 14 games remaining.

Springer finished 4 for 5. Astros starter Charlie Morton (15-3) frustrated Arizona hitters and was perfect through three innings before the Diamondbacks scored on a sacrifice fly from David Peralta in the fourth to pull to 2-1.

Morton allowed two runs and three hits while striking out seven in six innings.

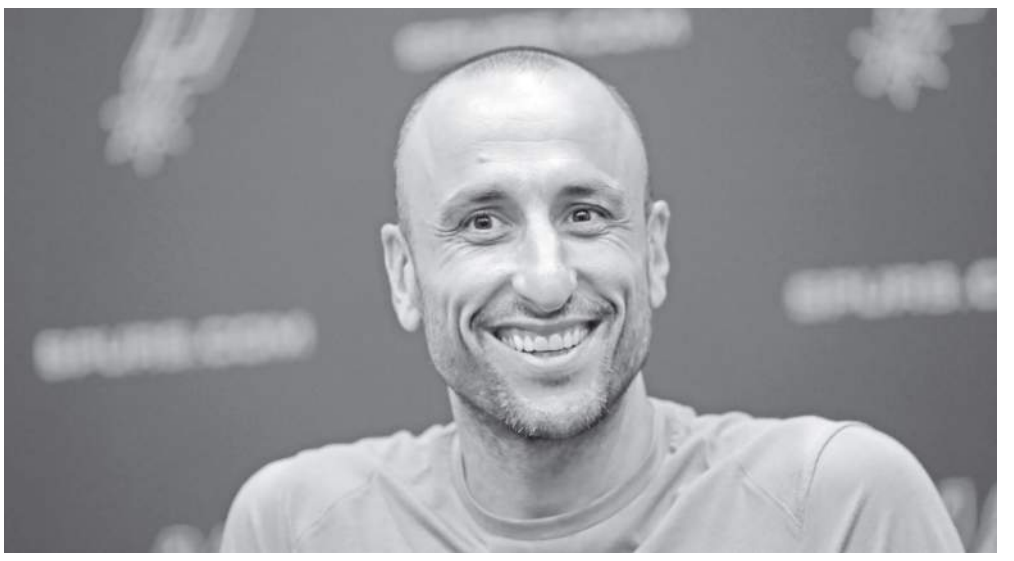
Ginobili content with retirement after 16 seasons with Spurs

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Manu Ginobili walked into the San Antonio Spurs practice facility and saw the intense efforts of his young teammates in preseason workouts.

Ginobili had put himself through those same workouts for 16 seasons. But this August morning, the 41-year-old realized he couldn't. For a player who has literally thrown himself into his basketball career, the realization his body and spirit were no longer willing cemented the decision to walk away from the NBA.

"I couldn't see my body going through that kind of grind again," Ginobili said Saturday during a press conference at the Spurs practice facility. "I felt that I had a good season, that I left everything that I had in the previous season both physically and mentally."

Ginobili was thoughtful, self-effacing and funny in his first interview since announcing his retirement Aug. 27 on social media. He steps away after helping San Antonio win four of its five NBA titles, the last coming in 2014.



AP

Former San Antonio Spurs guard Manu Ginobili talks to the media at the NBA basketball team's practice facility, Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018, in San Antonio. Ginobili recently retired at age 41 after 16 seasons with the Spurs and helping them win four NBA championships.

His retirement, along with Tony Parker's departure to the Charlotte Hornets as a free agent, brings an end to the era of the Spurs' Big Three. Along with Tim Duncan, Ginobili and Parker helped San Antonio become the most successful franchise in any sport based on winning percentage.

The Spurs also will be without Kawhi Leonard, who requested a trade and was dealt to Toronto along with Danny Green for DeMar DeRozan and Jakob Poeltl. It will be the first time coach Gregg Popovich enters a season without one of the Big Three by his side.

"I think it's going to be a great challenge for him having a different kind of team, maybe less corporate knowledge," Ginobili said. "I think it's going to be a fun challenge. I think he's going to do good."

The Argentina native was twice selected to the All-Star team and twice named to the All-NBA third team despite spending most of his career coming off the bench. He was named the 2008 NBA Sixth Man of the Year.

"Playing 16 years is completely unexpected and going through everything we went through," Ginobili said. "Big disappointments, huge wins, creating that type of union with the coaching staff, with the front office, with the staff, teammates . it's been an amazing journey, way beyond anything that can be expected."

Ginobili played professionally in Argentina and Europe for seven seasons before joining the Spurs in 2002 following his selection with the 57th pick in 1999. He entered the NBA as a mop-topped 25-year-old who could make a spectacular pass one minute and then throw the ball into the stands the next. Ginobili's dynamic, if erratic, plays endeared him to fans but caused consternation for Popovich. But his coach grew to love and accept Ginobili's unique abilities.

IT&E Amari's Homeboyz tops Thursday League

The IT&E Amari's Homeboyz had a strong finish in its title showdown against 9 Eleven 8 Black Ball to rule the Saipan Billiards Association Budweiser Open 8-Ball Thursday League last week.

Down at 5-7, the IT&E Amari's Homeboyz swept the last four singles matches to grab the upper hand and clinch the division championship. Nolan Cultura started the streak for the IT&E Amari's Homeboyz after beating Mervin Sahagun, while Roman Rodriguez, Gian Flores, and Cesar Sangalang also won over Tata Hamoy, Jeff Gayas, and Rey Hermogenes, respectively, to hand their team the come-from-behind victory. Jeff Garcia also suited up for the newly-crowned champions and teamed up with Rodriguez in giving the IT&E Amari's Homeboyz one of the two wins in the partners play.

The IT&E Amari's Homeboyz, which finished only third after the regular season and had a 209-155 record, marched into the finals after downing the 9 Eleven MJD Warriors in the semifinals. 9 Eleven 8 Black Ball, on the other hand, was the top finisher in the elimination following its 225-139 slate and moved into the title match after ousting Brannon's Jam Shooters.

The 9 Eleven MJD Warriors was ranked second in the regular season with its 210-145 mark, while Brannon's Jam Shooters had a 206-158 record to earn the No. 4 seed. Brannon's Jam Shooters went on to round out the Top 3 after a 9-6 victory over the 9 Eleven MJD Warriors in the consolation match. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Players of the IT&E Amari's Homeboyz are all smiles after beating 9 Eleven 8 Black Ball in the finals of Saipan Billiards Association Budweiser Open 8-Ball Thursday League last week.

GCA

From Page 28

the Geckos headed to Mt. Carmel School last Friday and attempted to extend their streak. However, the Knights derailed SIS, and the hosts team went on to bag victory No. 4 after falling to GCA 2 in their season opener. Official scores of the SIS-Mt. Carmel tiff last Thursday were unavailable at press time, but the match was played in three sets.

With the win and its 4-1 record, Mt. Carmel moved up to solo second place in the team standings, while SIS dropped to third with its 4-2 mark.

GCA 1, on the other hand, kept the top spot, as it improved to a 5-0 slate after outlasting Agape 1 at the Torchbearers turf in Middle Road last Thursday.

The Eagles eased past Agape 1 in the first set, 25-14, but failed to get the job done early when the host team fought back in the second with a 25-18 triumph. Then in the deciding third set, GCA 1 regrouped and delivered down the stretch by taking a 15-9 victory.

Agape 1 absorbed its second loss against three wins to fall at the No. 4 spot in the team standings of the eight-squad competition.

In other results, Saipan Community School registered back-to-back victories after a 0-4 start to jump from last place to No. 6.

SCS finally broke into the win column last Wednesday after downing Agape 2 in straight sets, 25-14, 25-18. The Tsunami then made it two in a row after slipping past SDA last Friday. SCS prevailed in the opening set, 25-17, but SDA recovered in the second with a 25-13 triumph to extend the game. In the third set, SCS regained its bearing and recorded a 15-7 win to hand SDA its fifth loss in six games.

SDA is at seventh place in the team standings, just slightly ahead of Agape 2, which is still winless after six matches.

Agape 2 hopes to end its drought when it faces Agape 1 in one of the four games scheduled for tomorrow. Other pairings for Tuesday are GCA 1 vs SIS; Mt. Carmel vs SCS, and GCA 2 vs SDA. GCA and Mt. Carmel are the host schools.

DOUBLE

From Page 28

In the pro bodyboard, Cheul prevailed against Do Hyun Kim and PIC Saipan's Reymark Castro.

Hyun Kim had another runner-up finish in the open men's flowboard, while Archie Abuyan ruled the category, and Ki Taek Kim rounded out the Top 3.

In the women's flowboard, Nishimura downed Morgan Moon and Se Young Kwak. The Japanese also notched the first place honors in the open women's bodyboard after outclassing Kwak and Jia Ya Yun.

Jia Ya entered the open women's flowboard, too and was ranked second in the division, which was ruled by Go Eun Woo. Ja Kia Yun completed the Top 3 in the category.

In the open men's bodyboard, Sai Bagnot clinched first place, while Carmelino Garcia and Ryou came in at second and third, respectively. In the beginner division, Justin Lim took the top honors and was joined in the podium by runner-up Isaiah Aleksenko and third placer Dong Hwan Kim.

Dong Hwan's sibling Ji Young also had a third place finish in the kids bodyboard, which Jin Woo Ryou won. Vladimir Propokenko was ranked second. Still in the bodyboard contest, Timo Bierer prevailed in the grom division after defeating Je Damin and Sophia Heras.

In the men's flowboard, PIC Saipan's Christopher March Mojar won over Norjay Hipolito and Thomas Reyes.

Meanwhile, organizers of the weekend tournament would like to thank the following for sponsoring this year's competition: Pacific Trading Company, Bridge Capital, E-Land, Kensington Hotel, Coral Ocean Golf Resort, Marianas Visitors Authority, 670 Rock Steady (Magas), Kanoa Resort, Fiesta Resort, Triple J Wholesale, T-Galleria, and Saipan Vegas.

CNMI

From Page 28

a three-day break before it faces group favorite Thailand on Sept. 21 in the 4pm tiff. Then for their last game, the Commonwealth bets will meet Singapore on Sept. 22, also at 4pm.

"All the teams in the tournament are the ones that our girls have never played against before; we don't know what to expect, but I believe the girls will play their best. The game starts even before the players step onto the pitch. Although we don't know what the results of the matches may be, what's important is that we expect to improve after every game," the team manager said.

Meanwhile, the four other groups have also started their respective qualifiers last weekend.

In Group A, Guam won over Sri Lanka, 4-2, while Jordan and Uzbekistan had a scoreless draw. In Group B. India topped Hong Kong, 6-1, and Mongolia shut down Pakistan, 8-0. Indonesia edged Palestine, 3-2, in their Group D match, while Vietnam eased past United Arab Emirates, 4-0, and Lebanon did the same against Bahrain, 8-0, in the Group F games.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Boston	102	47	.685	—
New York	91	57	.615	10½
Tampa Bay	81	66	.551	20
Toronto	66	82	.446	35½
Baltimore	42	106	.284	59½

Central Division

x-Cleveland	83	65	.561	—
Minnesota	67	81	.453	16
Detroit	60	88	.405	23
Chicago	59	89	.399	24
Kansas City	52	96	.351	31

West Division

Houston	93	55	.628	—
Oakland	90	59	.604	3½
Seattle	82	66	.554	11
Los Angeles	73	76	.490	20½
Texas	64	84	.432	29

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	83	65	.561	—
Philadelphia	76	71	.517	6½
Washington	75	74	.503	8½
New York	69	79	.466	14
Miami	57	91	.385	26

Central Division

Chicago	87	61	.588	—
Milwaukee	85	64	.570	2½
St. Louis	81	68	.544	6½
Pittsburgh	73	74	.497	13½
Cincinnati	63	86	.423	24½

West Division

Los Angeles	82	67	.550	—
Colorado	81	67	.547	½
Arizona	78	71	.523	4
San Francisco	70	79	.470	12
San Diego	59	90	.396	23

z-clinched playoff berth
x-clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NMA All Schools Cross Country Series 1

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Middle and high school students are bunched up at the start of the Northern Marianas Athletics Cross Country Series 1 held last Sept. 8 at the CPA Airport Field.

High school runners are about to complete the first of the three-lap course.

The last wave of runners heads out to the course.

A Saipan International School runner takes a long stride during the middle school race.

Three runners near the finish line.

A Saipan International School runner keeps a steady pace as she is about to finish one lap of the three-lap race,.

Runners push themselves hard as they near the finish line.

Northern Marianas Athletics official Elias Rangamar briefs runners about the course.

Canelo dethrones Triple G in another close call

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Indians clinch 3rd straight AL Central title

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Double winners in PIC point break tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Six participants in the 2018 Asia Flow Tour and 12th PIC Point Break Championships made it to the honor roll twice as the weekend competition wrapped up last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A participant in the open men's bodyboard shows the judges some of his moves during the qualifying ride in the 2018 Asia Flow Tour and 12th PIC Point Break Championships last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Korean Jae Ho Cheul and Japanese Kaoru Nishimura topped two categories, while Daniel Ryou, Jia Ya Yun, Se Young Kwak, and Do Hyun Kim also had podium finishes in two divisions of the tournament held at PIC Saipan's artificial wave machine facility.

Jae Ho Cheul came out on top of the masters bodyboard class after beating Japan's Tasuo Kato and fellow Korean Daniel Ryou. Each competitor was given three chances to show their tricks to the three judges and the best two scores (each participant could get as much as 5 points per round) were totaled to determine the rankings in the finals. Riders had 40 seconds to wow the judges with their acrobatic moves. Cheul got 7.73 points against the 6.06 and 5.23 of Kato and You, respectively.

Cheul moved into the finals after topping the golden ticket round with his 4.63 points, while Kato (1.53) and Ryou (1.13) placed second and third in the last qualifier.

See DOUBLE on Page 26

CNMI humbled by Iran

GCA 1, Mt. Carmel keep streaks; SIS wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy 1 and Mt. Carmel School stretched their winning runs, while Saipan International School notched another victory in the middle school division of the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League last week.

The Geckos were pitted against the Seventh Day Adventist last Wednesday at the SIS court in As Lito and gained the outright win after sweeping the visiting squad. SIS posted a 25-19 win in the first set and then pulled off a 25-22 triumph in the second to earn its fourth straight victory after losing its debut (to Agape Christian School 1).

After their win at home,

See GCA on Page 26

WHIT ALTIZER
A Saipan International School player waits for the ball to drop for a return to Seventh Day Adventist during their game in the middle school volleyball league last Wednesday at the SIS court in As Lito.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI U16 Women's National Team starters pose for a photo before their game against Iran in the AFC U16 Women's Championship 2019 Qualifiers last Saturday in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI U16 Women's National Team was routed by Iran, 12-0, during the opening game in the AFC U16 Women's Championship 2019 Qualifiers last Saturday in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Iran scored six goals each in the first and second half of their Group C match to join Singapore in the win column. Singapore downed the host country, 4-1, in the other game in the opening day.

"Iran has a team made up of much stronger, faster, and more experienced players. From start to end, they were aggressive and were always trying to make plays to expose the space in our defense line in order to score," team manager Liz Phan said.

"Our team worked on playing a collective defense, taking chances to send the ball over the opponents' defense but with 80 percent of them being collected by Iran's tall line of defense. Despite of this, our girls never stopped and at the end of the game the girls were in good spirits and thankful for the experience," she added.

Fourteen players suited up in the CNMI's debut game with goalkeeper Marinel Falalimpa leading the squad's starting unit. Also playing as starters for the Commonwealth were defenders Khristelle Itaas, Sharmaine Francisco, Julian Hall, Lillian Podziewski, and Jenny Ann Capayas, midfielders Jannah Casarino, Nathanette Blas, and Katrina Costales, and forwards Paulyn Joyce and Emiliana King. Christina Atalig, Abegail Decena, and Sydney Hinds were the substitutes.

The CNMI players took a break yesterday and will return to action today, as they take on Tajikistan in the 7pm match (12 midnight Saipan time).

"We were able to watch the first half of Tajikistan versus Singapore and the girls mentioned they feel like they have a chance to make offensive plays against the hosts," Phan said.

After the match versus Tajikistan, the Luem Khen Koo-coached team will have

See CNMI on Page 26